

PRAYER

Please be praying in whatever way you can as we move forward together. Prayer is vital:

Pray for God's continued guidance and presence

That we keep in step with the Holy Spirit and for the gift of wisdom and discernment every step of the way

Pray for faith and courage

That we would be faithful and courageous and that, when fear rises, we would fix our eyes on Jesus

Pray that each of us would know what God is calling us to do (and what he isn't)

Ask God to show you how you might join in. God knows and loves each of us and we all have a significant part to play in the fulfilling of his purposes. It will be different for each of us, because we are different and our circumstances are different, but we believe he will show you, if you ask him.

Use the All Saints' Prayer

This prayer was written in response to God's word to us to stretch out our hand and to become **'Saints on the Move'**.

Praise and thank God for all his faithfulness - past, present and future!

King of Glory, God of love,
captivate our hearts.
Revive your church.
Deepen our trust in Jesus.
Bring life where we are withered.
Give us courage to stand up
and to stretch out our hand
in faith and hope
that your kingdom would come
and your blessing flow
through Ripley and beyond,
in Jesus' mighty name.
Amen.



All Saints, Ripley



'SAINTS ON THE MOVE'

*Stretching out our hand
to be a people of blessing*

SETTING OUR SIGHTS

As Advent begins and we enter a new church year, the time has come for us to set our sights for the months and years ahead, and focus on the next steps for us at All Saints, Ripley.

Over the last 2 years we have responded to God's call to us:

- ⇒ to 'stretch out our hand' for healing and reconciliation
- ⇒ to be **'Saints on the Move'** together
- ⇒ to pray and explore God's direction in our 2016 day away
- ⇒ to be 'no longer a church of fear', but 'a church of God'
- ⇒ to 'stretch out our hand' to be a people of blessing
- ⇒ to begin afresh to explore building on the plot next door

Building on this foundation, we are setting our direction and priorities in the ways that we believe God has been showing us together as a church. These are exciting times that will call us to be faithful and courageous, trusting God's call and provision.

So, we invite you to join with us in the continuing adventure as **'Saints on the Move'** as we discover together how God can work in us and through us to love and bless Ripley and beyond!

John, Rachel & Marian (Advent 2017)

SETTING OUR SIGHTS

As *'Saints on the Move'*, there are three main directions that we will be moving forwards in during the months and years ahead: Prayer & Presence, Children & Families, and Town Connections. These will need to be built on a firm foundation to thrive. As we reach out and welcome in, we will be aiming to ensure that we are built up as God's people, the Body of Christ, and that our building facilities are fit for purpose.

Prayer & Presence

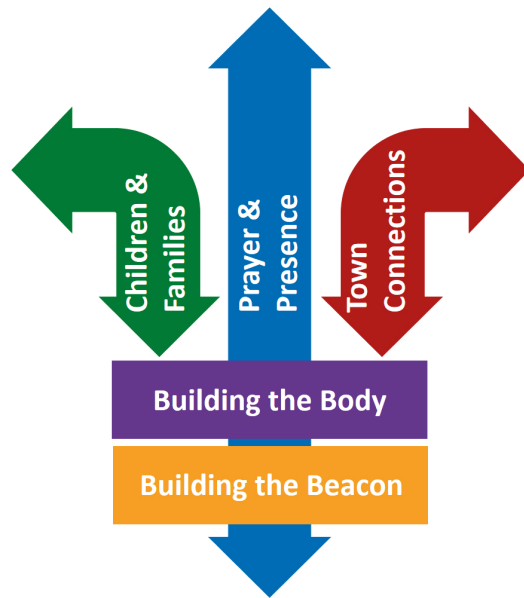
Deepening our relationship with God and our dependence on his empowering presence

We believe it is vital to ensure that who we are as a church and as individuals is deeply rooted in the love of God, and that everything we do flows out of our connection with him. We recognise our need for the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit in all things. We will be seeking to enable and resource each of us to go deeper with God and to have more opportunities to pray and be in God's presence together.

Children & Families

Supporting and investing in children and family life

We believe we are particularly called to focus on growing our ministry with children and families, building up the connections we have through the work of Squeals, Open the Book and Young Church, and developing more. This has begun with events like the *Easter Eggstravaganza* and *Harvest Hullabaloo* but there is



more to come, with possibilities such as after school clubs, meals in school holidays, parenting support and so on.

Town Connections

Partnering with others to serve our town and empower those who are vulnerable and helpless

We are called to engage in loving service and to be agents of God's transformation. We will be doing this by building on ministries like Open Door, and developing partnerships with other churches and agencies in meeting the felt needs of the town. This is the focus of *'Team Daniel'*.

Building the Body

Growing together, strengthening and caring for each other

We are the Body of Christ and, especially in times of stretching out, we need to keep the Body in good shape. Encouraging each other in discipleship and caring for each other will be vital, and enjoyment of life and having fun together will build us up. Small groups like our homegroups will have a significant part to play and *'Team Barnabas'* will be investing in pastoral care.

Building the Beacon

Developing facilities to enable emerging mission and ministry, shining the light and hope of Christ into Ripley

We are blessed with a wonderful, flexible church, but it still limits us in what we can do. We are also blessed with a plot of land next door to the church, and now is the time to plan and build there, to serve the needs of our developing areas of mission and ministry. We plan to call the new building *'The Beacon'*. Particular needs are for space for energetic activities, dedicated prayer space and quiet meeting space, and also facilities that can be used to support vulnerable people in our town through more of the week. *'Team Nehemiah'* will be facilitating the building process.