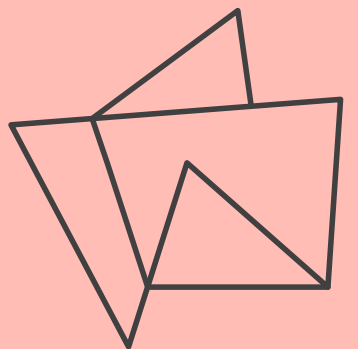
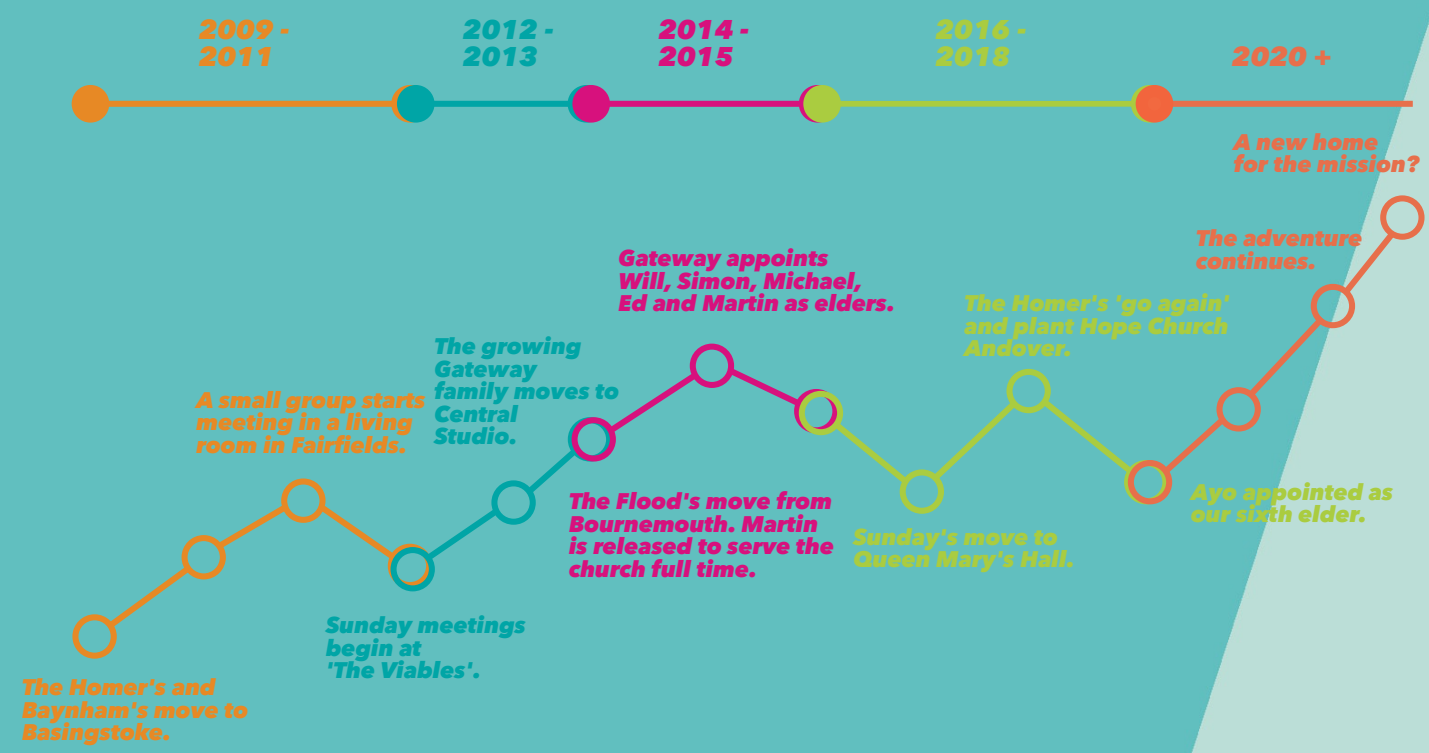


CARING FOR A FULL HOUSE IN OUR NEW HOME.

**LIFE MEETING
JANUARY 2020**



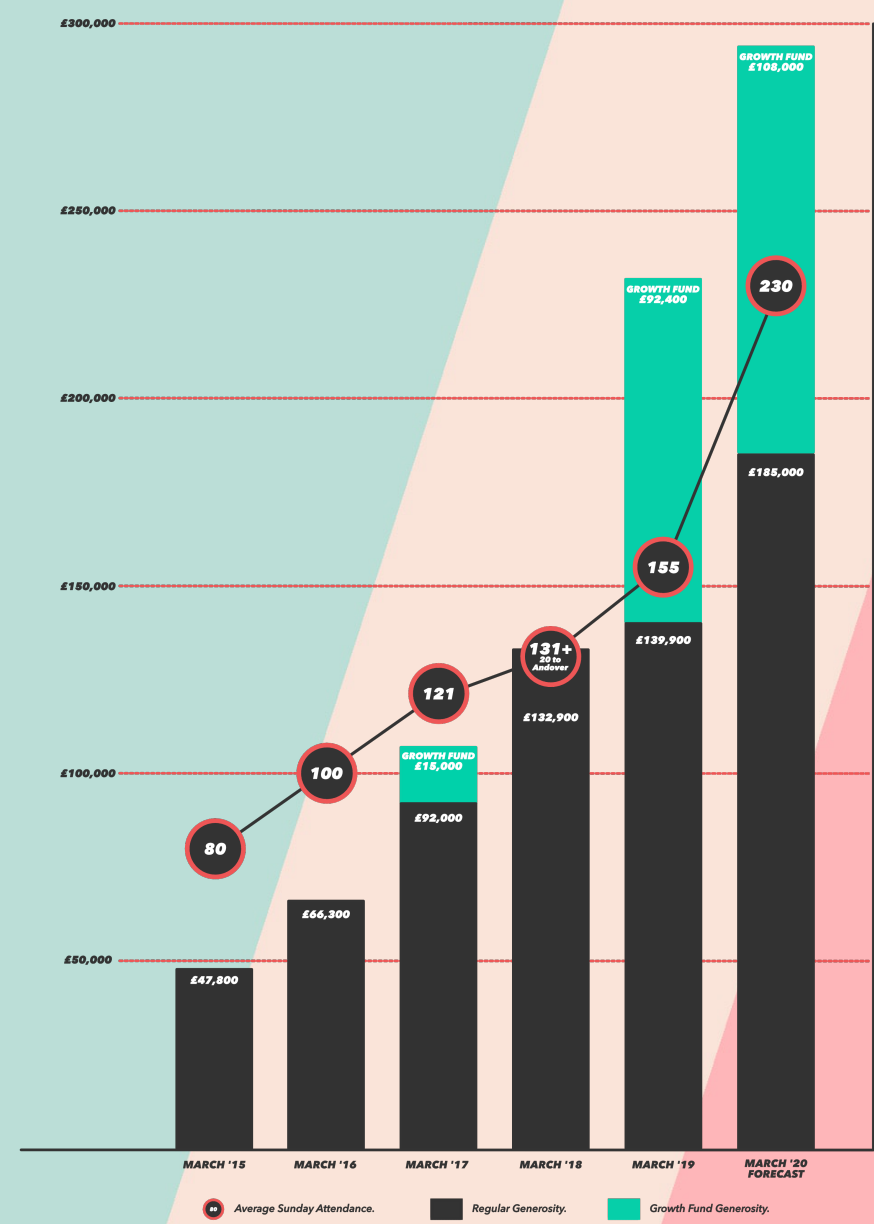
OUR STORY SO FAR.



Gateway Church started as a plant in late 2009 when two couples moved from Camberley and Farnham, to start a church in Basingstoke. They believed that God had spoken to them about establishing a church which would be 'a city on a hill' with a heart to serve and bring good news to the town. The team started meeting in a front room in Fairfield's for a couple of years before launching a monthly meeting on a Sunday afternoon in 2012, and moving quickly to weekly meetings at Queen Mary's College in 2013. The following year saw the Flood family move from Bournemouth to Basingstoke and Martin Flood was appointed to lead the growing Gateway family. The Church appointed its first five elders in 2016, with Ayobami appointed as an elder in September 2018. In January 2018, Gateway sent five couples from within the Church to launch Hope Church - a new church in Andover was started.

Since then we have launched a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt advice centre to help those in our wonderful town find financial freedom and live with hope for the future. We have grown considerably, to well over 200 most weeks, and are close to purchasing a building in town that will serve us well as a home for the mission. We also have two new churches on the horizon that we want to start. What excites us is seeing people putting their hope in Jesus and getting caught up in his great purposes to redeem and restore this world for His glory and our good.

OUR HISTORY IN NUMBERS.



- God has always proven himself faithful to provide for what he calls us to, and Gateway, you are such an incredibly faith filled, generous and joyful family. As elders, we are constantly blown away by your desire to use your finances for God's mission.
- For every 45% of growth that a church experiences, a restructure of the organisation is required so that the life God is bearing is stewarded well towards fruitfulness.
- We staffed for the future growth Autumn 2017 with Ed Mellish (Equipping Evangelist) and Anna Hodgson (Strategic Operations Lead) and since then we have grown by over 80%.
- We know our systems are straining, and are not working as smoothly or effectively as we would want. We are working to improve this in the coming months so that teams and everyone that calls Gateway home people are feeling supported, informed and connected.
- Ben Martin joined the team on an 18 month secondment in April 2019 with the focus of launching CAP and developing our Discipleship and Growth plan so that people were being better cared for now and as we grow to fill our new home.

PREPARING FOR GROWTH.

God continues to draw many to Gateway, through new faith, moving to the town or movement within the town, and he is assembling an ever increasing body of people filled with faith to go and immerse Basingstoke in God's love.

We believe empowering leadership that identifies and releases talents and callings of the church is the best way to release the full potential of Gateway to bring the good news of Jesus for the benefit of this town.

This church would not and could not exist without the thousands of volunteer hours that are contributed every year and because we want to serve and honour this, it has always been our intent that when we take the big step to appoint someone to a paid role for Gateway, that they are capable to serve and lead the many incredible people that call Gateway home so that the vast majority of the life of this church is brought about through serving and supporting volunteer leadership and giftedness.

RESTRUCTURING TO SERVE THE GATEWAY FAMILY.

In the last two years we have grown 80+% to an average of 230 people. The impact of this is that the systems we had in place when we were nearly half the size are no longer sufficient and we are in the process of restructuring to prepare for this continued growth.

A NEW VOLUNTEER ROLE.

As our Sunday gatherings have continued to swell, we have recognised that we need to add in a key strategic role of 'Integration Lead' so that we can continue to serve and care for those in the church and our guests. We want the journey for every person that comes to Gateway to be joyful, easy, and their next steps to be clear and accessible. We also want to serve our volunteer teams with excellence, and we know that we can make significant improvements in that area.

THE ELDERSHIP TEAM.

We often get asked who the elders are, so we thought it might help to highlight them again. Elders lovingly lead as servants of Christ and operate in the church family in a similar way to fathers should in their homes; humbly as servants, faithfully as examples, diligently as co-workers to:

- 1) Direct, Lead or manage the church. 1 Timothy 5:13 - Direct the affairs of the church.
- 2) Teach the church. 1 Timothy 3:2 - able to teach. Titus 2:9 - Know sound doctrine from false.
- 3) Care and Protection. As shepherds and pastors.
- 4) Pray for the sick. James 5:14.



Martin



Ayobami



Simon



Will



Ed



Michael

THE OFFICE TEAM.

We have a staffing philosophy that we staff for the growth ahead, not to manage what already exists. This way we are better placed to have the capacity to care and lead well.

Martin Flood (Lead Elder)

Martin is released to serve the body as the lead elder. This means carrying primary responsibility for the whole family growing in a felt urgency for God's vision and mission and everyone released to wholeheartedly play their part in it. Martin leads the eldership team to ensure it fulfils its role and responsibilities; invests in and raises leaders with a passion to start and strengthen churches; works to ensure we as a church are making disciples of all ages; seeks to recognise and release gifts within the family and that we corporately pursue a kingdom culture where courage and faith are demonstrated. Our expectation is to release Martin to use his gift to raise leaders across the whole Commission family. martinf@gatewaylife.co.uk

Anna Hodgson (Strategic Operational Lead)

Anna is released to enable the whole church to serve to their full potential. As our 'Strat Ops' Anna oversees the effective organisation of the family, its resources and processes to keep our efforts focussed at all times on our priorities. This means creating new ways to steward the growth God is giving us, and to work the deliberate steps we need to take for our vision, mission and family atmosphere to be realised. Key to this role is equipping, releasing and directing the volunteer gifts God has given us. anna@gatewaylife.co.uk

Ed Mellish (Equipping Evangelist)

Ed is released to serve the church as an equipping evangelist, taking primary oversight for our mission statement to 'Bring Good News'. Ed is released to build a culture of sowing and reaping in the church, seeing the whole church sharing life in hospitality and mercy, and equipped to share their story and the whole gospel in a way that connects with the deepest longings and misunderstandings of the town. Ed's role is to ensure the good news is central to every aspect of the life of the church, making sure that the whole good news is prioritised and proclaimed, and to raise disciples who are a sign of the gospel in their day-to-day lives. Our expectation is to regularly release Ed to serve Commission and other churches in this way. Alongside this responsibility Ed is also a part of the eldership team. ed@gatewaylife.co.uk

Ben Martin (Discipleship and Growth Lead // CAP Debt centre manager)

Ben is in the middle of an 18 month secondment and has been released to serve Gateway in two ways. The 'D&G Lead' sees Ben carry primary responsibility for developing a fuller vision of what it means for each and every person in Gateway to 'Follow Jesus'. This includes the creation of our pastoral care structure, processes for identifying and releasing gifts, a focus on practical teaching that leads to action and ensuring the making disciples is essential to the DNA and culture of Gateway.

Ben's also works as Gateway's 'Debt Centre Manager'. This means overseeing the successful launch of a CAP debt centre in town; building partnerships with key agencies in the town; advertising the services to the widest cross section of Basingstoke; training and coordinating a pool of "befrienders" who embody Gateway as walk alongside clients on their journey out of debt, and ensuring that all clients who respond to the gospel find their home in the Gateway family with access to all the ongoing support they need. ben@gatewaylife.co.uk

Rebecca Flood (Integration Lead)

As Gateway grows, we need to be even more systematic and deliberate in our assistance of those new to the church. In a recent step, Rebecca now volunteers her time to help those that are joining Gateway to find a place to belong so that they feel at home, and carries primary responsible for overseeing both the Welcome & Hospitality teams. Rebecca is primarily focussed on signposting people towards key life giving connections in the church, such as Life Groups and serving on teams so that they thrive and grow. rebecca@gatewaylife.co.uk

OUR WIDER LEADERSHIP TEAM.

As we have grown and developed, we've been really keen to make sure that the way in which we lead as elders continues to be effective, informed and connected to the wider body of Gateway.

One of the ways in which we have pursued this is to have a wider leadership team that exists alongside our eldership team. We believe that there is wisdom and safety in the counsel of many, Proverbs 11:14, and that as we take time to pray, to talk and share wisdom we will make better decisions for Gateway.

Our wider leadership team currently consists of:

Andrew and Becky Brown.
Chris and Helen Vessey.
Ian and Anna Hodgson.
Ruth Nesbit.
Janet Baynham.
Pippa Mellish.
Rebecca Flood.
Kunbi Okanlawon.

OUR TRUSTEE TEAM.

As a church and charity we are served by an excellent team of trustees, and for this we are very grateful. As trustees, they are responsible for the management and administration of the charity.

Simon Baynham
Vicky McDonald
David Grant
Lewis Balfour

In summary they will oversee:
The determining of policies.
HR and contracts.
Financial management.
Preparing annual accounts.
Assessing risk and protecting the charity.

OUR FAMILY ATMOSPHERE.

We're a family and we want to love each other like God has loved us.

Unvarnished openness: Vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity and change and whilst we don't naturally want to dwell in the place of vulnerability, it's vital we choose to be there and be more than 'ok' with it.

If the gospel has shown us anything, it should at least be that we haven't got it all together. But we don't like to admit this. Why do we all want to present otherwise?

Our veneers of presentability don't make us more acceptable, in fact they isolate us as we fear being truly known. God's defining and unshakable love frees us from the pretence of the being 'alright'. We need God, I need you and you need me. It's how we were made. We are relational beings, made to connect at a deep and meaningful level. Only when we refuse to allow shame to define us and we decide to speak out what shame tells us is unspeakable, will we know the liberating experience of being known and accepted. Once we have experienced this liberating kind of love from God we can start to practice this with others, to offer it and receive it.

Life-giving honour: Made in the image of God, every human has dignity, value and worth regardless of their life choices or ideologies. God has honoured us, by considering us of such worth that even though we have rebelled against him or pretended he didn't exist, he still pursues us with the intent of convincing us of his love and commitment. How we give respect to others speaks of how we honour them...not because of rank or status, but because they're made in the image of God. To learn with humility from each other, to be daring enough to confront each other when we dishonour ourselves or others through our sin, this shows how we truly regard each other. This is a life full of gratitude and hope that believes the best. Honour gives life, it restores the broken, it lifts the heads of the downtrodden and teaches us to treat others in the same way Jesus has served us.

Refreshing generosity: The way we serve others with our time, our abilities and with our possessions expresses a lot about how we have been treated and see the world. When we are stingy with all of these things we show that we don't feel we have enough to spare, that we are afraid of what is coming round the corner, that we are not convinced that God and his provision is enough for us. When we are secure that God is with us, for us and willing to provide for us, his children, then we are able to learn to let the generosity that we have received, flow through us to others. We can bless many through acts of kind sacrifice that bring life, that express value and alleviate suffering.

Audacious courage: Courage starts when let ourselves be seen and known right to the depths of who we are, and we find we are not rejected like our fears might tell us, but that we are accepted and loved! We have a God who is for us, with us, goes ahead of us, guards us...he is good and he says to us "Fear not". So, if God who knows us completely, is still for us, then who can be against us. If God is for us, even the gates of hell cannot withstand the advance of the church. If God is for us, then we dare not dream small. Risk is not our enemy, comfort is. Creativity and innovation are our friends and we should hear our Father's encouragement to come to him with unflinching requests and with much expectation. To reflect on courage another way; if we find ourselves with a christianity that is without passion, danger and mystery, we may not be following Jesus at all.

Radical inclusivity: Jesus was inclusive to the point of scandal. The social outcast and the religious unclean were those that Jesus enjoyed spending his time with. He looked upon the people with compassion and this moved him to initiate and include people into his life so that they could be restored as a result. Jesus knows we are imperfect, wired for struggle, but that we are worthy of love and belonging.

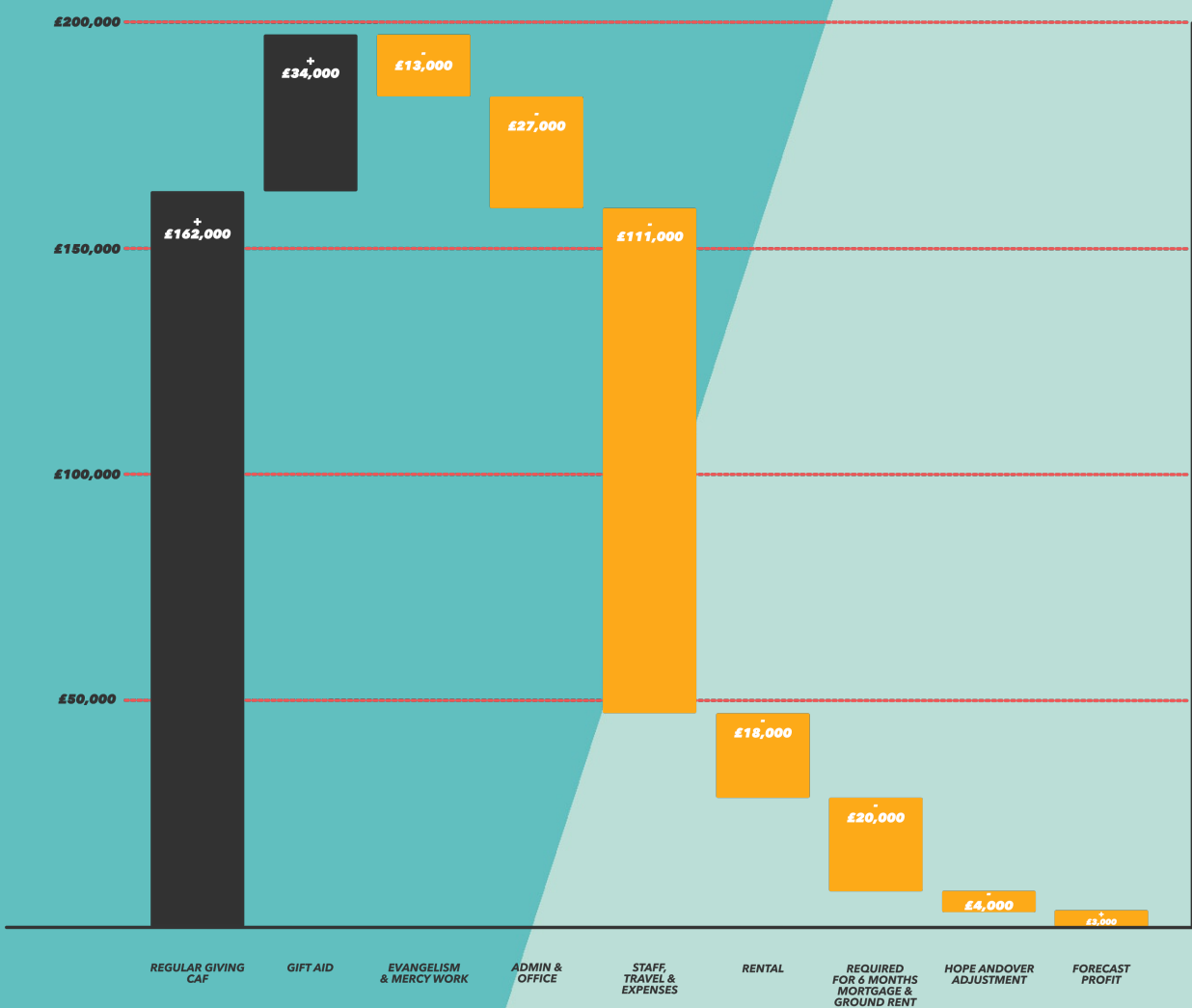
To their surprise, people found themselves belonging with Jesus even before they believed in him and certainly before they were behaving appropriately. But having said that, God loves us too much to leave us where we are, he doesn't want us to accept second best for our life. So acceptance and approval are not the same thing. I can and I will accept you (and that means anyone) but that does not mean that I will approve of all that you do. Some of what you do or think may be highly destructive and toxic to your life and others. So for your good and their good and God's glory we may seek to appeal to you to believe that there is more and there is better for you. Don't let pain drive you. Let the healing work of Jesus present a better hope and true liberty.

Jesus himself became a scandal by associating with those sick with sin and we won't be afraid to receive the same treatment and we follow his example.

Prevailing joy: Joy that only exists on the surface when everything is going well is cheap, fleeting and unable to deliver the satisfaction we crave. What we long for is a joy right at the core of our being. A strength that could be found in the hardest of circumstances. A pleasure that can bring fortitude, hope and even laughter as we wade through the refuse that life has to offer. Jesus found this kind of prevailing joy in his close relationship with his Father. He was able to walk into his own painful destiny with joy because what he experienced at the core of his being was more than enough to compensate for the temporary pain of today and tomorrow. This is trust that refuses to give up. It is infectious, and when others see it, they want it.

The joy of the Lord is our strength and gratitude will be our posture.

OUR FINANCIAL FORECAST FOR 2020.



- Regular giving plus gift aid equals £196,000. This is derived from an average of the last four months of income being consistent throughout 2020 and presumes that our outgoings will reflect last years ministry priorities + the cost of owning our new building.
- This assumes no growth in our general giving, which historically has actually been in the order of 30% per year for the last six years.
- Staff, travel & expenses total takes into account the end of Ben Martin’s secondment due 31st July 2020.
- Rental of £18,000 assumes that we will continue hiring Queen Mary’s College until October. This allows for four months where we are refurbishing the new building.
- £20,000 has been allocated for the new building mortgage and ground rent, assuming that we take possession June 2020, and that whilst we are refurbishing the building, we will still be required to pay these amounts even though we will not have moved in yet.
- Our financial support of Hope Church Andover reduced to £4000.
- Forecast profit of £3000.

OUR NEW HOME.

After months of delay on the sellers side, we have regained momentum on the project.

Since we took a first growth fund in March 2019, followed by our October gift week, we have raised just over of £190,000. Added to that, we increased our monthly giving by an astounding amount, from an average of £13,000 per month in the first half of 2019 to an average of £16,000 per month in the last half of the year!

We have also been offered an unsecured loan of £100,000 from a friend of Gateway to enable us to afford the project.

Well done, you are an incredible bunch of people!!!!

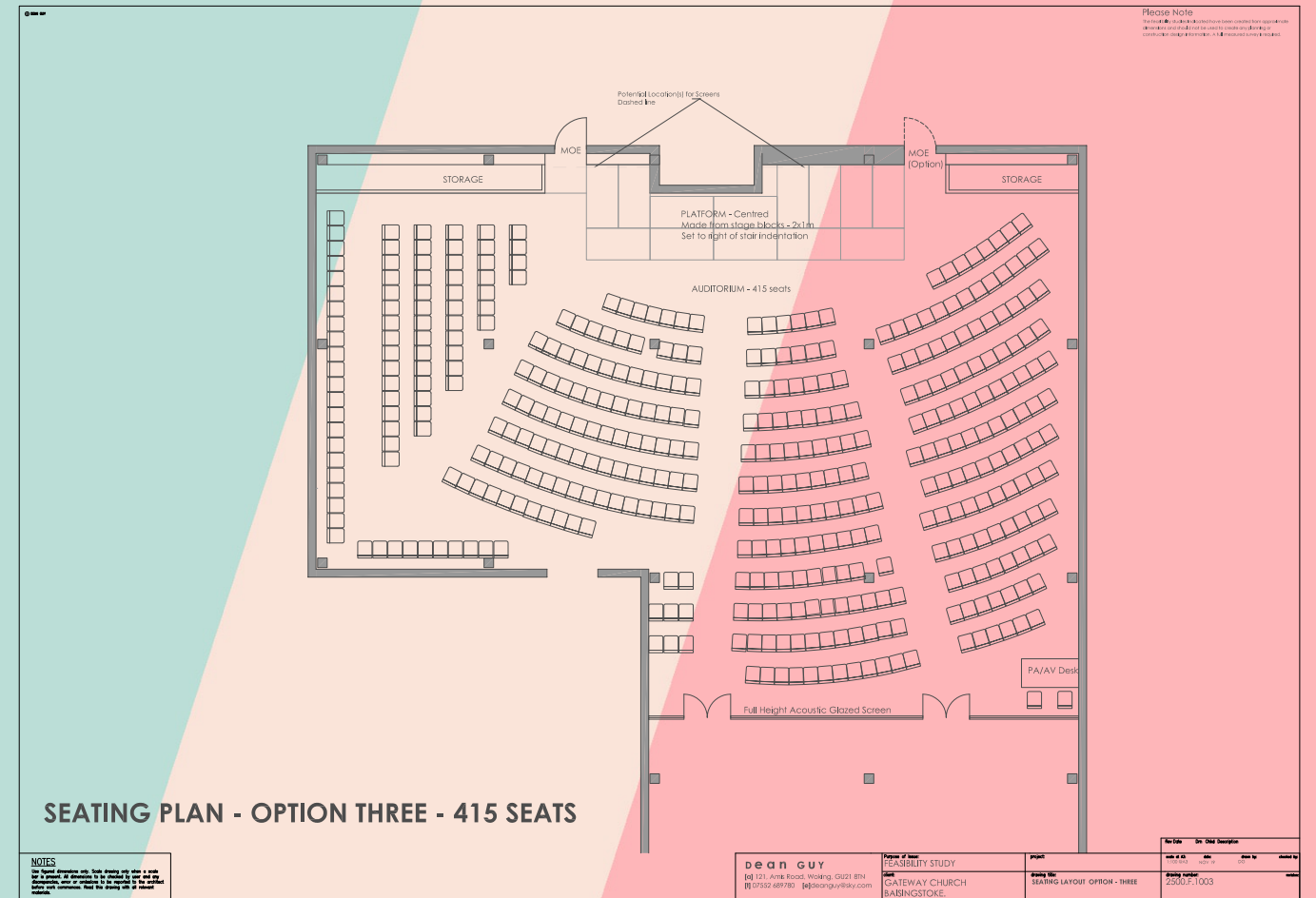
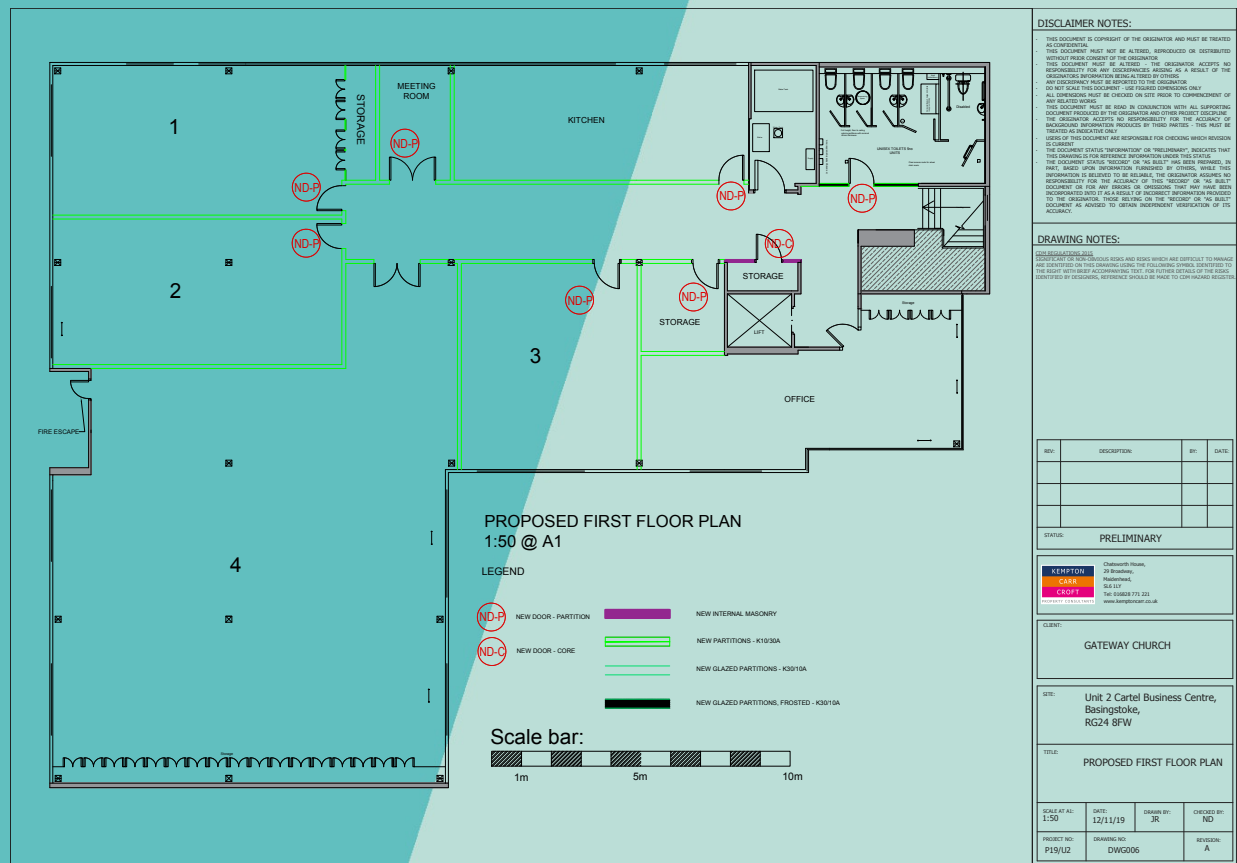
Currently, we have a planning consent pre-application submitted, waiting for comment. This will give us an indication of the councils feeling about our request for the change of use from B1 to D1 (place of worship). We are expecting to hear from the council any day and we will update you as soon as we do.

We have worked on the designs and specification for the refurbishment of the building and now the tender document is with six building contractors who are currently in the process of Drawing up a quote for our refurbishment cost. We are informed that we can expect them to be returned to our project manager for consideration by late February. Our expectation is that the cost of refurbishing the building will be somewhere between £225,000 and £250,000. We have been informed that the current estimations for the time required for the refurbishments is approximately 14 weeks.

As soon as we have identified the preferred contractor and confirmed the refurbishment costs, we are able to present this information along with all the other details to the mortgage companies for them to be able to consider our application and if they are able to make us an offer. We are led to believe that once we have agreed the mortgage, it will take a couple of months for the funds to be released.

If everything moves at a decent pace, there is the possibility of being in the building by late 2020 or this time next year.

We are sure that there will be unforeseen issues, wisdom tells us to that things always cost more and take longer...but we sense that we are well set to respond as and when they arise.

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Our homes are important to us. They are the venue for many of the most important hours & days of our lives. They provide shelter and are where we share food, laugh, care for one another and its a place for people to know that they belong.

We want the visitor and every regular attendee of Gateway Church to have an experience that lets them know that they are valued and loved. We want people to come in and know, by the way they are greeted both by the physical design/layout of the building and the amazing people of Gateway, that this is somewhere that they would want to come back to again.

We would like the Gateway home to be a place that tells people that they belong and invites them to journey with us.

This means that we want to consider all of the people that could be experiencing this space over the many years ahead. We want to walk through this design through the eyes of children, teenagers, single parents, the elderly, those less abled physically, those with large families and those that come on their own.

To accompany the drawings above we have attached a fuller description of the building and our philosophy behind how we will use it for God's mission.

SETTING UP FOR THE LONG HAUL.

We are a Jesus centred community seeking to apply the good news to all of life - this is the best context for discipleship. It's people, not programmes, who help us experience, imitate and follow Jesus more closely and it's grace, truth, mercy and compassion which ultimately lead to change.

Between the 5th and 30th of June this year, we ran our first Wellbeing survey. This team is led by Tayo Owodunni and supported by a diverse and multi-skilled core team, this sub-group is developing ways that Gateway can help to holistically meet the needs of those who may be hurting or ill, emotionally pained or overburdened with life's trials.

At Gateway, we believe that God cares for those who are hurting – physically, spiritually and emotionally. We want to express God's care and compassion through practical acts of kindness – to see people receive restorative Christian help and care. We are pursuing this in lots of different ways – including through our 'Wellbeing Group' – a group of people committed to supporting people's mental health and wellbeing. This group is helping to change further our church culture and establish practical ways to support positive wellbeing.

It is from the Wellbeing group that this survey emerged. It was intended to be just one of several tools to understand perceptions of wellbeing in church. The survey asked questions about how connected people felt, and how able they were to find help and support when needed.

This has informed and shaped our '**Discipleship and Growth Plan**' which has been designed as a holistic plan to serve us when our new home is full at 450 people.

THE DISCIPLESHIP AND GROWTH PLAN.

What do we want to achieve?

Community

Truly belonging in community is an essential part of a being strengthen and shaped in in the Christian Life. Our mission together is expressed corporately through serving on teams, offering our gifts, resources and time to wholeheartedly play our part in God's re-writing of the story of our town.

Foundations

Our new identity in Christ, the centrality of life by the Spirit and deep roots in the gospel is a crucial means by which we grow. This informs not just our Sunday preaching, but our courses, our life groups and how we equip people to go deeper into these truths themselves.

Relationships

Maturity means bringing the gospel to bear in every area of life. The gospel brings a new way of relating to ourselves (emotions and rest), bring shape to every relationship (singleness, marriage, parenting) and is expressed in every sphere (work, politics, culture and creativity). The gospel is comprehensive, changing the way we relate to each and every one of these areas.

Freedom

Community, truth, prayer and God's Spirit continually set us free to grow. Sometimes pain, hurts, ill-health and the baggage of life can stop us growing into all God has for us and all he's called us to be. We are called to bear one-another's burdens and to gently restore. Yet some people are particularly gifted to help people walk free and we want to release those gifted people to serve in this way.

How will we measure it?

High Profile

Everyone in Gateway is growing in their understanding of what it means to Follow Jesus, knowing how to apply it practically in everyday life.

Clear Signposts

Everyone knows what help, care, community and courses are available and could direct someone to the next step they need.

No barriers.

No barriers exist to journeying with Gateway and belonging in the community. No cultural barrier exist to receiving care or support (like shame or stigma). No practical hindrances prevent people from receiving care or going deeper (like complicated sign-up processes or incomplete communication). No one is excluded through transport, messaging or anything else.

No gaps.

No groups are missed, no demographics are overlooked, no gifts are wasted, no people ignored. Every person can belong and every person who stays is served and equipped to express their unique contribution as a disciple in the kingdom no matter their stage of life.

THREE WINS SO FAR.

- Prayer team available every Sunday after the service to offer prayer, support and sign post to any additional help needed.
- Termly Welcome Lunch. An opportunity for new people that is designed to help them to find out more about Gateway and get connected into the life of the church.
- Having a point of contact for the church to speak to about any area concerning pastoral care and discipleship.

THREE PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING YEAR.

- Marriage Preparation and Marriage Aid ready to launch by Easter.
- Have all teams and Life Group leaders clear on what help is available to people within and outside the church.
- Establish a pastoral team trained to care for those who need help beyond what can be offered through general community and Life Groups.

AS WE GET BIGGER WE NEED TO GO SMALLER.

It is a sociological fact that when a community grows beyond about 150- 200 people it becomes almost impossible for everyone to everyone else. As the church continues to grow, the primary place of belonging increasingly becomes the Life Groups.

Our midweek groups, which we call LIFE GROUPS are divided into two categories: CONNECT and GROW.

CONNECT. A wide range of groups based on activities, interests or stages of life for those exploring faith, new to the area, looking for a new church home or wanting to meet some friendly faces.

GROW. These groups are about followers of Jesus deepening their relationship with God through study and practice of the Bible, prayer, and fellowship. They meet mid-week at various times.

In Gateway we commit to a Life Group on a termly basis. This is to avoid people feeling trapped in groups they no longer feel called to and to allow for people to flex their attendance at Life Groups with other commitments (either in or outside of Gateway). It is desirable that we are realistic and committed to our groups, this helps the Life Group leaders to plan and avoids us feeling obligated to go to something that we don't have capacity for. Life Groups determine their own frequency and this maybe weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.

CONNECT



2ND TUE OF EVERY MONTH

k2tog@gatewaylife.co.uk



1ST THURS EVERY MONTH

Connecting over food.
gatewaykitchen@gatewaylife.co.uk



Various venues and activities throughout the term.
teandtots@gatewaylife.co.uk



1ST THURS EVERY MONTH

lifegroups@gatewaylife.co.uk



For those working in London who see their workplace as a mission-field. We meet for coffee, usually in the City and give ongoing support to each other with prayer and encouragement.
londoncalling@gatewaylife.co.uk



3RD SAT EVERY MONTH

games@gatewaylife.co.uk

games

GROW

COMMUNITY Keith and Linda Dillaway. community@gatewaylife.co.uk

Building friendships with each other, with God Himself and with those around us through care and support, prayer and praise, discussion and socials. Meeting three times each month, we want to be both dynamic and interactive.

REFLECT Jon & Sanna Brown. reflect@gatewaylife.co.uk

We meet every Tuesday evening and spend time doing life together (with cups of tea!) and studying God's word.

REFLECT 2 Ken & Carol Crafer. reflect@gatewaylife.co.uk

We meet every Wednesday evening and spend time doing life together (with cups of tea!) and studying God's word.

FELLOWSHIP Enzo & Nardy Lattanzio. fellowship@gatewaylife.co.uk

We are centred around growing in God together and building one another up. We meet every fortnight and worship, study God's word, pray, encourage and share life with one another.

FLOURISH Amy Bullock. flourish@gatewaylife.co.uk

'Being rooted and established in love' Ephesians 3: 17-19.

A ladies only Bible study group focusing on deepening our relationship with God and each other. Various dates on a Wednesday at 8pm at Amy Bullock's house.

VITALITY David & Judith Grant. lifegroups@gatewaylife.co.uk

Aimed at newer christians, we meet every other Wednesday evening to learn what God is saying to us through the Bible.

NO 18 CONFERENCE IN 2020.



HOURS
MILES
MINUTES



KIDS
THE WORLD IS OUR PLAYGROUND

With 2020 being such a crucial year for Gateway, we have taken some time to step back and reflect upon our priorities and where we can place our limited resources.

Buying and refurbishing a new home will take a significant amount of time and effort and we want to ensure that we give it the energy that it deserves.

With this in mind, we have made the tough decision to cancel our planned 18 conference for 2020. The 18 conference is our annual local and global missions conference, and we fully expect to be running our next one in Spring 2021 when we will have the building up and running.

Our home for the mission.

The philosophy for its use and a description of the building.

Philosophy.

Our homes are important to us. They are the venue for many of the most important hours & days of our lives. They provide shelter and are where we share food, laugh, care for one another and its a place for people to know that they belong.

We want the visitor and every regular attendee of Gateway Church to have an experience that lets them know that they are valued and loved. We want people to come in and know, by the way they are greeted both by the physical design/layout of the building and the amazing people of Gateway, that this is somewhere that they would want to come back to again.

We would like the Gateway home to be a place that tells people that they belong and invites them to journey with us.

This means that we want to consider all of the people that could be experiencing this space over the many years ahead. We want to walk through this design through the eyes of children, teenagers, single parents, the elderly, those less abled physically, those with large families and those that come on their own.

The way we have designed this space is to maximise moments of truth. 'Moments of Truth' are experiences that visitors and new comers have as they come into the building. They are the moments that inform decisions on whether to proceed or not. For example: 'can I find a parking space?' to 'are my kids going to be safe?' or 'this is a nice welcoming entrance'.

We want the experience of those that use this building to be that they feel that it is a welcoming environment, warm, interesting and functional. We want their arrival to the building, from the main road, to the car park, to be clear, inviting and helpful. Lined with smiling faces that are ready to help.

Ground Floor Description.

We will situate the double door entrance onto the **welcome foyer**, (5.5 x 5m) so that it allows for a clear line of sight through to the far end of the main auditorium so that people can see what is beyond the entrance. The welcome foyer will be making the most of the existing glazing, creating a light and open space. In here, we will have a welcome team and the information desk for guests to receive all that they need, as well as having the sign up area for the kids work. We are conscious that for first time guests, walking into a new building can be disorientating, so we want to make it as easy for them as possible. Clear and sufficient signage will serve us well in this aim.

We will walk straight ahead, through from the welcome foyer, through to the **hospitality space** (13.5x4.6m).

This area will have an intentionally lowered ceiling and a different floor finish to the auditorium, so that it creates a different feel to the space which is more cosy and inviting to conversation. This area will provide a great space to receive new people and start those important and hopefully life changing conversations, to serve refreshments and catch up.

At the end of the meeting refreshments will be made available from a number of stations in the refreshments space. This is to avoid everyone convening on one point at the same time. We want to make it easier and less stressful as you go and get your drink.

From the refreshments space, you can walk into the **main auditorium** (See attached seating layout design for 415 capacity) where we make the most of full ceiling height, leaving the metal trunking, beams and block work exposed (23x17.5m). This choice is both for design and economic efficiency. We will need acoustic treatment in here, to compensate for the hard surfaces so that the music and projected voices of those speaking can be heard clearly. We will carpet and light this space well, so that it is comfortable.

There are a few pillars in the area, so we have considered the lines of sight in our design of the layout of the chairs to minimise the impact, as well as where to place Screens/TV's to make sure everyone is able to engage fully.

On the ground floor we will have five **toilet suites** that will have floor-to-ceiling, self enclosed rooms with integral basin and hand dryer. These are designed to give the user a private and comfortable experience. One of these suites will have baby change facilities and the other will serve any of our people with disabilities.

Along the corridor will be the **kitchenette** (4x2.5m), which will provide logistical capacity for the refreshment space as we host up to 400 people in one gathering. This creates moments for people to meet new people, make friends, share hospitality and more.

First Floor Description.

To gain access to the first floor you can either take the lift or go up the stairs.

On the first floor as you come up the stairs you will see another block of five toilet cubicles that exactly mirror the ones downstairs. These will primarily serve the kids work during the Sunday morning gathering.

To the left you will see access to the **offices** (10.5x3.8m). They are located in this corner partly because it is a good vantage point to see who is arriving during the week so that we don't miss anyone and it also has a good degree of natural light. In here we believe we have enough space for 10/12 members of staff/volunteers if we were ever to need that many.

As we come to the selection of rooms on the first floor. It is worth pausing and explaining our philosophy for how we use the building.

Each room will be decorated and artworked in such a way so that it serves the team primarily using it, but will not be branded in a permanent/exclusive way that limits the use of the rooms at other times of the week. We want each room to feel warm, homely and welcoming yet flexible. In each room we will want there to be storage so that we can have easy access to the equipment needed.

Enabling us to remain flexible means that we can make an assessment year on year as to which room suits which team depending on the needs/size.

As you continue down the corridor, we have storage to the left and boiler room to the right.

Room 3 to the left we propose will be the creche room. With great natural light, and at 7.5x6m will be a great space for our parents to enjoy a break as our creche team invest into the under threes. This location provides easy access from the lift (outside the lift there will be a buggy park that will be out of the way of foot traffic.) This room is also close to the toilets and the kitchen which will prove invaluable.

We have a large **kitchen** (9.5x3.8m) to the right which we propose should be suitable to cater for anything up to 150 people if such an occasion arose.

Next to the kitchen we have a small **meeting room** (3.8x2.4m). This can be used for ad hoc private meetings during the week or on Sundays as appropriate.

Room one we propose will be for Little Stars. This has great natural light and no pillars/steel beams in the way of the room, so the free play won't be impaired. This room is approximately 9.5x5m which is a significant increase on the current space in QMC.

Room two (9.5x5m) is proposed for Encounter, our youth group. This room could have much more of a lounge feel, sofas, TV and game station, pool table etc.

Room four is proposed for Big Noise (13x13m). This clearly is a large space. Because Big Noise covers such a wide age range, they are most likely to have the largest number of children and the experience the greatest challenge for engaging age appropriately with such a wide age and development range. More room allows for breaking off into age appropriate groups as and when needed.

The other rationale for keeping room four so big, is because it will be a great asset to the church to have another meeting space for around 100 people that is not in the main auditorium. This could be a great space for prayer meetings/Gateway Life Meetings/Alpha course midweek. Etc.

The doors to each room will have a glazed panel for visibility in and out and in each room, there will be storage so that teams can have easy access to their equipment and know that it is secure during the week. We know how frustrating it can be to arrive on a Sunday morning and find that half of the equipment is missing and nobody knows where it's gone.

Safeguarding.

On the first floor there will a number of doors that will be locked and will only be accessed by those with permission, primarily the Kids Workers on Sundays. This is to serve us well as we care for some of the most vulnerable amongst us.

Conclusion.

'we shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us.' Winston Churchill

With an existing building that we are repurposing for our needs, there will always be points of compromise that we will have to suffer for the sake of the whole, and we have sought to minimise that as much as is possible. As we seek to fine tune this design to best serve us as a whole family, please do share your observations and ideas. We are keen to hear from you and want the building to be shaped by our vision, more than it shapes us.

