

WHY MULTI-SITE?

HVC

Thank you for taking some time to read and pray through this booklet. We believe that the Lord is laying before us as a church family an opportunity, that, if seized by us all with both hands could have very significant repercussions for the story of the Christian faith in East London and beyond for several generations to come.

‘We are seeking contagiously and compassionately to demonstrate and communicate the love of God to the people of our city’

Vision

WHAT IS A MULTI-SITE CHURCH?

A multi-site church is one church that meets in multiple locations across a region or city. This is different to a church plant, where a new church is planted from an existing church and has its own leadership, vision and values. Instead, a multi-site church will remain as one church with the same leadership and DNA across all the locations.



WHY ARE WE BECOMING MULTI-SITE?

The simple answer is that this is what we feel God has called us to do and we have responded in obedience in order to fulfil his mandate for us. Throughout 2019 Simon had a sense that God's vision for us is so much bigger than we had initially thought – and specifically heard the call that we need to play our part to Pastor/Shepherd the City - to bring life to the City.

In January 2019 Simon was reading Mark 6:30 – 44 where Jesus feeds the 5000. The following verses leapt out,

'He saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.'

Note the compassion of Jesus for the large crowd – why because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

'How many loaves do you have?' What resources do we have? Surrender them and let Jesus multiply them.

'Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.'

We feel that this is what God is asking us to do – to congregate people in groups of 100's (E15 Stratford) and 50's (E12 Manor Park) to be fed by Jesus. That is His Multisite strategy for us which will enable us to play our part in Pastoring the City.

'Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves'. We bring what we have and let Jesus do the multiplying.

'The number of the men who had eaten was 5000.' We think God might be asking us to shoot for the big impossible dream. Simon received a prophetic word suggesting that we would be releasing 12 sites – which we think is a combination of multisite and church plants. However it is only God who is able to do this. All of this is an adventure of faith – faith is a 4 letter word spelt risk. We are to step out of the boat but as we do this we need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus!



HERE ARE SOME OTHER REASONS WE THINK MULTI-SITE IS A GOOD STRATEGY FOR US:

FOR THOSE YET TO COME

People in the process of exploring faith are not as likely to travel across the city to a venue that is not local to them. Having sites across the city means we can reach into more communities across East London and beyond. Bottom line is we are becoming a multi-site church because we think we can meet more people this way!

GREATER LOCAL IMPACT

Localised expressions of Highway Vineyard are better placed to meet the needs of the community in which they meet. Outreach projects can have a local impact and we can build wider-reaching connections within the communities in which we live.

IT KEEPS US FOCUSED ON MULTIPLICATION

Multi-site is missional at its core, starting with the recognition that healthy things grow! Throughout Jesus' teaching we see that multiplication is a Kingdom reality. When Jesus is around, things multiply. Pursuing a multi-site strategy pushes us to expect and pursue growth, not for our own glory, but for God's. It keeps our focus as a church not just on who we are but also on who we are becoming.

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REASONS WE THINK MULTI-SITE IS A GOOD STRATEGY FOR US:

DEEPER COMMUNITY

Having multiple sites allows us to grow whilst keeping that family-feel. Keeping our Sunday services smaller makes it easier to welcome new people and help them feel part of our church. It also allows us to offer better pastoral care and deeper community.

EVERYONE CAN BE INVOLVED

We think multi-site church creates more space for everyone to play their part and be the church Jesus has called us to be. More sites mean more opportunities for people to get involved and use their gifts. It releases more leadership, vision and creativity across our church community and city.



WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE FOR US?

Our first site will be in a small church building in Manor Park. We are initially planning to start a Friends and Neighbour's style coffee morning, a Highway Tots group and a compassion Grow Baby project. We are planning to start services there at Easter.

Over the next few months there will be lots happening to get us ready and we will have regular news and updates. If you would like to be kept informed of all of this please do keep checking our website or talk to Yaw who will be the Manor Park Site Pastor yaw@highwayvineyard.org. Please do pray as to whether God might be asking you to be part of the initial team that move to Manor Park.

We have also been exploring a project in E20, we are working alongside the Church of England to run an exciting new expression of church. This ministry is designed to impact a unique community by taking church outside of the building and gathering instead in an Italian cafe on a Tuesday evening. If you would like to know more about this please speak to Lauren Hart, Abi Jarvis or Simon simon@highwayvineyard.org.



QUESTIONS?



WHAT CAN I EXPECT ON A SUNDAY AT EACH SITE?

Whilst each site has its own look and feel, our Sunday services will follow the same format, with the same values on worship, prayer ministry and teaching the Bible. The whole church will follow the same preaching programme, and Simon and the preaching team will visit and speak at each site supported by each site pastor. You can expect to receive the same welcome, see the same publicity, see the same badges and taste the same coffee and biscuits!

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE FOR KIDS AND YOUTH?

Whichever site our kids or young people are a part of, we are committed to making sure they can encounter Jesus and grow in their faith. Aline and Christine will continue to organise our Sunday morning programme and will be seeking to mobilise teams across both sites.

WHICH SITE SHOULD I GO TO?

It probably makes sense to go to your nearest site but the choice is yours! You can choose to move between them if you want, however we think in the long term it makes sense to commit to one site and get stuck-in within that community.

WILL WE EVER RUN EVENTS ALL TOGETHER?

Yes! Throughout the year we plan to run several services where we come together to celebrate and share stories of what we have seen God doing across the church. We will also run other smaller events throughout the year that are open to everyone.

WHAT IS THE EXPECTATION OF THOSE MOVING TO THE MANOR PARK SITE?

As we prepare for the launch we will have midweek prayer and planning meetings which will be held at the Manor Park site on

Wednesdays; 26th February, 11th March, 25th March and 8th April

which we would like you to attend if at all possible.

Once we have launched our Sunday service we would expect everyone to be serving. As the team will be smaller, there may be a need to be available to serve more often and possibly in different teams. We all have a part to play: Everyone a disciple; Everyone a servant, Everyone an intercessor, Everyone a witness, Everyone a giver.

IF I CHOOSE TO MOVE TO THE MANOR PARK SITE HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO COMMIT TO IT?

If after praying about it you feel that God is asking you to move to the Manor Park site we would like you to commit to being part of the team for at least a year.

WHAT IS THE EXPECTATION OF THOSE THAT REMAIN AT THE STRATFORD SITE?

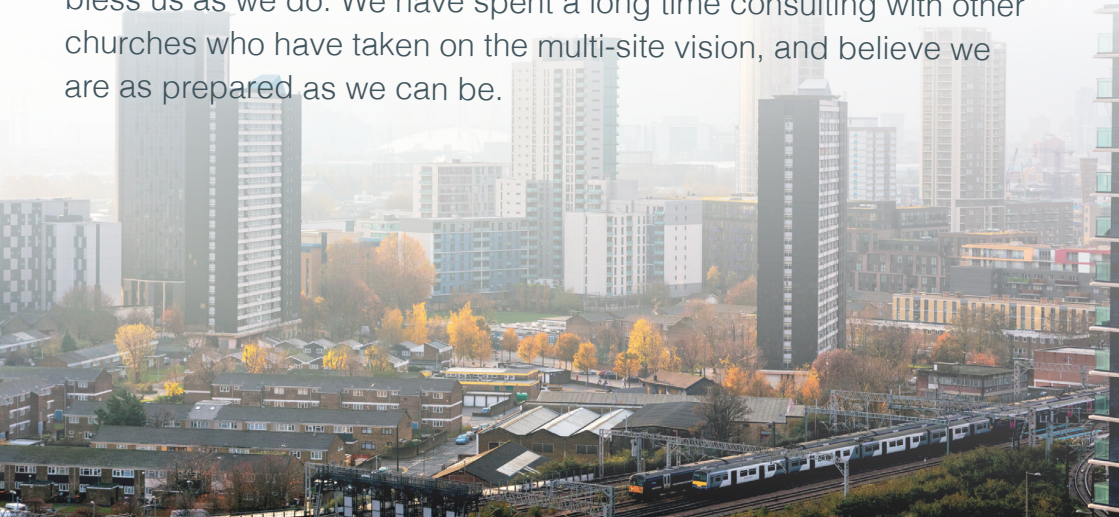
Firstly to be praying for the Manor Park site and the people that are moving. We then need to fill in the gaps left by those who have moved to Manor Park. We all have a part to play: Everyone a disciple; Everyone a servant, Everyone an intercessor, Everyone a witness, Everyone a giver.

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL COST?

We are one church with one mission and therefore we will be sharing all our resource which includes our finances. With growth comes increased expenditure. In order to get the Manor Park building ready for use and to be available to reach the local community we have already used some of our financial reserves. So in order to see the Compassion projects established plus other new ones created and even more workers mobilised we will need our regular giving to increase. We are therefore asking everyone who calls Highway Vineyard their home to review their regular giving; to pray and ask God how much each of us should give. 'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' 2 Corinthians 9:7 God has been so good to us in the past – His provision has clearly been evident and so we are confident in Him for the future.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS STRATEGY WILL WORK?

We don't. However we believe that we have heard God ask us to do it. So we are stepping out in obedience and believe that God will bless us as we do. We have spent a long time consulting with other churches who have taken on the multi-site vision, and believe we are as prepared as we can be.



*'He saw a large crowd,
he had compassion on
them, because they
were like sheep without
a shepherd. So he
began teaching them
many things.'*

Mark 6:34

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