



G2 Vision & Strategy for 2009

The Story so far ...

G2 started in January 2005 as an experiment to 'do church' in a gym. The initial idea came from Roger Simpson, the vicar of St Michael le Belfrey, and we had six months of praying and planning before we started. G2 had its first Sunday meeting on 23rd January 2005 with just under 40 adults and children in attendance.

We meet in the upstairs function room of the David Lloyd Gym (previously known as 'Next Generation Club') on Hull Road at 11am every Sunday. Our meeting is café-style and includes coffee, worship, multi-media, activities for children, a talk based on a passage from the Bible and time for discussion.

Children have 2 clubs that meet in separate rooms and a crèche. There are now over 50 children involved in G2. Some of the children also meet fortnightly in a mid-week cell group.

G2's Sunday meeting is well placed for students at York University and there are currently over 40 students involved with G2.

During the week there are 8 cell groups that meet around the city.

There are currently over 200 people regularly or occasionally involved with G2 on Sunday or during the week.

G2 is a 'Fresh Expression of church' and part of St Michael le Belfrey Church in York and the Church of England.



"A fresh expression of church is a new and/or different way of being church in and for our changing culture. A fresh expression of church is not normally seen just as an additional activity or simply a stepping stone for people to Sunday services but as something with the potential to be or become church for those who take part."

See
www.freshexpressions.org.uk
for more details.



Diocese of York



The G2 Vision

G2

Discovering Jesus

G2 is a fresh expression of Church
with a vision to help people
discover and follow Jesus Christ

We exist to:

- Worship God
- Make disciples
- Build friendships
- Help people in need
- Equip leaders

At G2, we want to help you discover Jesus Christ, who he is and what his life means for you and our society today. You may be at the very beginning, a long way in or anywhere along the way to discovering what this means.

The beliefs and values of G2 are drawn from the Bible and the historic Christian church - we want to learn from the best of the Church through the ages and carry these through to Church in the 21st Century, while making sure it is relevant to today's culture.



Words

It can be difficult to explain G2 in sentences. Here are a few words we like. They may help to give you a feel for G2.



Our Strategy

Below we have listed some of our key thoughts and hopes for G2 in 2009. These plans have deliberately been left open-ended because things will grow and change as the year unfolds. God may bring other things to our attention and we want to be able to adapt and respond to those things.

Our plans are divided into 9 key areas, which are:

1. Worship & Prayer
2. Mission & Evangelism
3. Children & Youth
4. Students
5. Cells & Clusters
6. Leadership & Ministry
7. Social Action
8. Discipleship
9. Finance

Worship & Prayer

First and foremost G2 exists to honour God and this will be expressed in many different ways, particularly in our worship and prayer. It is important that worship and prayer is central to what we do as a community, as families and as individuals.

As the year develops we want to see God speak to us deeply and for people to respond to God in new ways. We will seek to be innovative in the ways we express worship together and want everyone to feel included in hearing what God wants for G2.

Worship

- Explore how we encourage children in worship in the Sunday meeting, Sunday kids groups and mid-week groups
- Start having Holy Communion at G2 in 2009
- Recruit and train up at least 3 more worship leaders and provide support for existing worship leaders
- Increase our pool of musicians and develop a band
- Continue to be new and creative in how we worship
- Invest in some new equipment: mic stands, speaker stands and a keyboard



Prayer

- More prayer and opportunities to pray
- Regular prayer time before the Sunday meeting
- Have a specific focus on prayer during Lent 2009
- Train a team of people to offer personal prayer ministry during the Sunday meeting

Mission & Evangelism

G2 exists to help thousands of people discover and follow Jesus Christ. We want to grow through people becoming Christians, coming back to God and coming back to Church. We also want to start new cells, new clusters and, in time, new churches. A primary focus of each of these activities is to reach out to people that don't know God. If this is to happen we must be purposeful in how we are doing this. Some of the possible ways that we see this growth happening are as follows:

- *Clusters* - Mid-sized missional communities that are shaped around a common passion and vision to share our lives and the gospel with a particular group
- *Cell Groups* - Small communities, meeting regularly in each others homes, developing gifts and growing friendships
- *Alpha* - Run alpha in cell group, through St Mikes and perhaps even on a Sunday at G2
- *On the streets* - Develop a street evangelism and prayer ministry
- *At the gym* - Develop our relationship with the gym and start to offer prayer/Alpha
- *Discipling Relationships* - Supportive relationships between members of G2 that help people to follow Jesus and honour Him in their place of work/study
- *Inviting to Sunday* - Particularly relevant for people who have not been going to church but are Christians
- *Men's/Women's Ministries* - Events and relationships that are designed to engage with people who don't yet know Jesus through community
- *Community/Family Events* - Run by the clusters/cell groups. Events that serve a need within a community and encourage relationships with people outside of the church
- *Your ideas*



Sunday meeting

As we grow we want to ensure that our Sunday meeting remains accessible to people who are new to church. In order to support new activities in and from G2 we need to plan for significant growth on Sunday morning. Our current Sunday gathering is nearly full – we need to explore how we can include more people.

- Increase the pool of actively involved volunteers on Sunday from over 40 to 70.
- Begin the discussion – ‘how do we make space for more people on Sunday?’
Planting out? New venue? Multiple-meetings? ...

Church Planting

In time G2 will plant out other new initiatives. We want to commit to the vision of church-planting with a flexible approach. Each new plant will need a vision from God, an individual or couple with proven Christian leadership, a clear aim & initial strategy, a small core team to work with the leaders and a body of people.

Children & Youth

Children and Youth are an important part of the life of G2. We currently have over 50 under-18's who are regularly or occasionally involved in G2 through either the Sunday or mid-week activities. The crèche and two G2 Kids clubs run during the Sunday meeting. We have one children's mid-week group and have just started a mid-week youth group. Some children from G2 also join in with some of the central St Mikes children's activities.

Crèche

The crèche is a valuable part of our community and provides an opportunity for parents to share and still take part within the Sunday meeting. We plan to explore and develop it further in the following ways...

- Continue to grow the crèche helper rota – these volunteers will support parents in looking after children and also facilitating ‘table talk’ discussions amongst adults in the crèche.
- Chat to parents about the crèche and get their input for how it can best support them and their children.
- Purchase some Christian books for crèche in addition to existing ones
- Replace old or broken toys with better ones
- Strengthen the crèche barriers



G2 Kids

The central priorities for G2 Kids are: Bible teaching, worship and prayer, and space and support for the children to discover God for themselves.

- Increase the number of children's leaders by the end of the year including more students and more male leaders
- Develop prayer ministry among the children
- Encourage the children to share knowledge and encouragement
- Expand from 2 to 3 Sunday morning age-related groups by the end of the year
- Continue to put into practice good quality, joined up, relevant material for the Sunday groups
- Develop mid-week take-home material
- Train leaders in session preparation, discipline etc.
- Continue to develop a culture of support and good quality work within the children's work team

Mid Week Club

The G2 Kids mid-week club meets fortnightly in Acomb to encourage greater fellowship amongst the older G2 kids. The club aims to provide a fun and relaxed environment where the children can feel confident to talk about their faith.

Youth

- Support the new G2 youth cell
- Encourage and provide opportunities for the youth to serve in G2
- Encourage young leaders through opportunities to lead in cell and possibly G2 on a Sunday



Students

We have an increasing number of students at G2 who form a vibrant part of our community. G2 is also linked with Fusion, which we support financially, and who provide us with resources and training. Our desire is to help students know Jesus and fulfil their potential. We aim to be an active community offering support and providing opportunities for students to discover Jesus, grow in their faith and give to others. We also want to help students fully integrate into the life of G2.



- Run a leadership training course which will be open to students
- Continue to develop and grow student cells
- Offer more discipling relationships
- Offer the opportunity to get involved with youth mentoring
- Train G2 members who are committed to supporting students
- Develop a student team
- Support more student-led outreach within the student community
- Encourage more students to serve in different areas of G2 ministry
- Be committed to Student Alpha
- Provide regular student lunches

Cells & Clusters

Cells

G2 has 8 cell communities including a kids cell, a youth cell, a student cell and 2 cells for mothers and children. Approximately 92 people from G2 are involved in G2 cells. Some people at G2 are involved with other cell groups from St Mikes and some people are in G2 cells but don't come on Sunday. The cell communities with a particular focus have been successful – we want to build on this.

- Grow to 12 cell groups by the end of 2009
- Raise new cell leaders – particularly students
- Re-establish G2 cell leader training
- Help all new people to G2 to join a cell group



Clusters

Clusters are mid-sized groups which have a particular focus for a people group or geographical area which forms the basis of their life together and their outreach. Currently G2 doesn't have any Clusters but we are hoping to start some this year, which will significantly impact the community and the way we reach out to people in York. Clusters will also provide a great opportunity for new leaders to be identified and released.

- G2 Leadership Team to receive training from St Thomas' Church, Sheffield.
- Run a 1-day training event to help potential Cluster leaders understand more about Clusters
- Aim to have started 2 clusters by the end of 2009
- Help wider St Mikes learn about Clusters
- Establish a structure to support Cluster leaders



Leadership & Ministry

An aim of G2 is to release many people into effective Christian ministry and leadership at G2, their place of work and their social or family networks. G2 is a volunteer organisation, so the involvement of every 'member' is key. The word 'ministry' simply means service.

- Establish a G2 leadership course for emerging leaders
- Increase the opportunity for new leaders to develop their gifts of public leadership
- Actively encourage and develop women in public leadership at G2
- Support Mike Rutter through his pre-ordination training as a pioneer minister

Social Action

We want to help people in need: to show the gospel as well as tell the gospel.

- Every cell group doing at least one Besom project a year
- Whole congregation to do one Besom project in 2009
- Repeat and expand Operation Christmas Child for Christmas 2009
- Regular fund raising events for Andy Roberts and Joel Blacker
- Raise awareness of social action projects within the gym
- Look to raise leaders with a passion for social action
- Potentially start a social action cluster
- Have a Social Action theme during lent

Discipleship

We aim to help everyone at G2 become a whole-hearted follower of Christ. To do this we want to develop a culture of discipleship which permeates everything we do. Over the last year many people in G2 have been involved in 'discipling relationships', where they meet up regularly with someone to talk about their walk with Jesus.

- Encourage everyone at G2 to consider being involved in discipling relationships
- Make resources available for these relationships
- Provide teaching on discipling relationships



Finance

Money will be a key factor in G2's future growth. G2 is part of St Michael le Belfrey Church and its costs are underwritten by the church PCC and expenses are paid from St Michael le Belfrey's bank account. Many members of G2 already give to St Michael le Belfrey Church.

G2 has 2 key workers:

Pippa Winterburn is a part-time volunteer worker on the St Mikes 1-year 'Parish Assistant' scheme. St Michaels provides Pippa's accommodation and Pippa works part-time to fund her living costs.

Luke Smith is released part-time to work with G2. Luke is funded primarily by members of G2, as well as friends and family and a donation from St Michael le Belfrey PCC. For the remainder of his time Luke work for Fusion – an organisation that helps churches to work with students.

Finance Goals

- Encourage every Christian who is a regular member of G2 to become a regular financial giver
- Increase the information we provide on G2's costs and G2 income
- Provide an opportunity to give to the work of G2 / St Mikes at the G2 Sunday meeting
- Increase giving income from G2
- Increase the amount of money G2 gives to other good causes
- Encourage initiatives that raise funds for other causes (e.g. Brass monkeys)



G2 Leadership Team

The G2 Leadership Team is the group collectively responsible for all of the areas of G2 and for future planning. This team works with a wider group of volunteers working in different areas. The G2 Leadership Team is accountable to the Vicar and PCC of St Michael le Belfrey Church.



Christian Selvaratnam
(G2 leader)



Luke Smith
(G2 Networker)



Hannah Smith



Mike Rutter



Pippa Winterburn



Dan Finn

G2 Advisers

The G2 Advisers are a growing group of people whose wisdom and experience we respect and who give input from time to time to the G2 Leadership Team.

The current G2 Advisers are:

Rev'd Roger Simpson – *Vicar of St Michael le Belfrey Church*

Rev'd Jim Roberts – *Chaplain of Pocklington School & Curate at St Michael le Belfrey*

Carl Tinnion – *Director of YWAM York and Assistant Director of YWAM Europe*

Rev'd Ben Norton – *Pioneer ministry Curate in Bridlington*

G2 Leadership Team – February 2009

