

## Henley Baptist Church

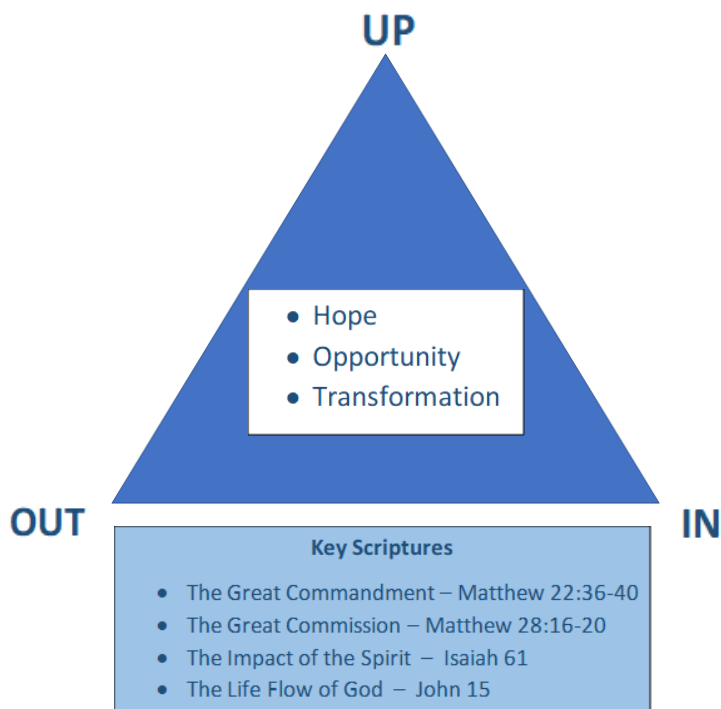
*To give hope, provide opportunity, and see transformation by God's powerful love*

Like many churches we try to ensure balance in our activity by regular referral to three areas:

- **Up** – our relationship with God (corporate and individual worship and prayer life)
- **In** – our relationships together (encouragement, love, support, care and honour)
- **Out** – our relationships into our community (partnering, caring, supporting)

Some of the Bible passages we feel are key for us as a church include:

- The Great Commandment – Matthew 22:36-40
- The Great Commission – Matthew 28:16-20
- The Impact of the Holy Spirit - Isaiah 61
- The Life Flow of God - John 15



### ***By 2025 we dream of becoming:***

- A worshipping family where our personal and corporate worship are the foundations of everything we do
- A connected community where everyone finds a place to serve, grow and thrive
- A healing centre for people to experience God's transforming love and power

**We have seven core values that shape everything we do and seven key practices that help us live out these values!**

### **SEVEN CORE VALUES (What do we believe is important?)**

- **Confidence!** Making a connection with God through Jesus' love, death on the cross and resurrection really does work for our lives - it's what we're all made for. We are confident in what God has done and still does, not in our own abilities.
- **The Bible:** We are an evangelical church, placing the scriptures - which we believe are God's revealed truth - as our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We love the Bible, encourage everyone to read it daily, and teach it every week in a practical way! We want to learn to balance the grace and truth of God expressed in the Bible.
- **Friendship:** At its root our faith is about being friends with God, and we can pass this on by being welcoming and friendly to all. We want people to experience the love and unconditional acceptance of God when they connect with us.
- **The Holy Spirit:** We believe that the life of God comes to us through the Holy Spirit, helping us live a life of purpose, fulfilment, and joy. We want the empowering presence, gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit in every aspect of our lives.
- **Worship:** we are determined to love, honour and follow Jesus Christ when we gather as church and in everyday life. And as our daily lives become worship our hearts get healed, and we are drawn closer to God. Our worship of God is the starting point of all that we are and do in our community.
- **The Kingdom of God:** we believe that the Kingdom (the loving rule of God) impacts the whole of life and society. Therefore, we live to demonstrate the good news of this Kingdom, addressing injustice, poverty and oppression wherever we can.
- **Community:** we love, honour and care for one another as an extended all-age, multi-cultural diverse family, where all are valued and welcome. As they say, "It takes a village to raise a child". Community is at the heart of who we are and the church is at the centre of God's plan to change the world. Church can be fun!

### **SEVEN KEY PRACTICES (what do we do?)**

- **A high value on worship, the presence of God and a dependency on prayer** is how we want to live our lives individually and together. We long to become a worshipping and healing community for anyone that needs physical, emotional or spiritual healing. We encourage

people to take communion regularly and believe that water baptism is a vital part of our spiritual journey.

- **Meeting together on a Sunday morning** is important to the health of our church and we want it to be a safe space for people to be inspired and drawn close to God. We also build community together at every opportunity throughout the week.
- **Commitment to our local communities** as we work in practical partnership with Nomad and other agencies to make a lasting difference in the lives of others. We also want to give everyone we meet with the opportunity to follow Jesus.
- **Care for our world and global church** as we partner with people, churches and agencies to make a positive difference. This could involve environmental initiatives, working with churches in the developing world and supporting people persecuted for their beliefs.
- **Lifelong learning (discipleship/mentoring) is available for everyone** so we can grow in faith, character and resilience as we follow Jesus and play our part in God's work to transform our lives, families and communities.
- **Generosity with our time, money and love**, enabling our church community and our wider community to enjoy God's blessing. Hospitality is a key in showing God's love to others.
- **Reliance on teamwork and training** to help us all find our purpose, grow together in maturity and achieve what we need to in church and community life. We believe teams are the best way for the church to flourish and share the responsibility of reaching our community with the good news about Jesus.

*Being connected through strong relationships with other churches is very important to us and we are members of [the Baptist Union](#) and part of [the Advance sphere](#) of Salt&Light Ministries in the UK. We are members of [the Evangelical Alliance](#) (EA) and subscribe to the EA [statement of faith](#).*