

# BURY CHURCH

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PLANT





# THE STORY SO FAR

In January 2021 Bishop Andy Lines licenced Rev. Ben Williamson to be a Pioneer Minister to start a new church in the North of Greater Manchester. Ben was tasked with identifying an area of gospel need and pioneer a new church in that area. In February 2021, despite the pandemic, Ben moved to Stockport to join the team at Christ Church Stockport with a view to identify where a new church might be particularly needed. Initially the Greater Manchester Borough of Bury as somewhere to begin explorations.

During 2021 Ben visited Bury to get to know what the need was in the area, and whether it would be right to serve in that place. Gloriously God has been at work, Ben has met many believers in different churches, across the borough serving Jesus and seeking to reach the lost. At every point Ben asked the question, is there a need and where? After much prayer and discussion, an area was identified just east of Bury Town centre, in particular Chesham, Fairfields, Free Town and Pimhole.



*I have known Ben Williamson personally and in a ministerial capacity for a good number of years, first whilst I was Mission Director of Crosslinks with Ben serving in South Africa, and now I am delighted that our paths cross again with my appointment as Convocation Bishop of the Anglican Mission in England.*



**Rt. Rev. Andy Lines**  
AMiE Convocation Bishop

*I commend Ben for his long-serving resilience in a demanding role in South Africa and now because that Christian character is being deployed in the cause of Christ in a gospel-poor England*

# EAST BURY

The area comprises of two large housing estates, Chesham Fold and Totting Fold, along with large amount of terrace housing. It is a short walk from the town centre where thousands of people live and work. There are a few small churches in the area, but the need to reach out to the population is huge, most of the residents are completely disconnected from church and know little of the love of Jesus Christ.

Two of the people Ben has met are Nigel Thompson and Sarah Hargreaves, who work for Bury Christian Fellowship, a church in the town. Nigel and Sarah have a real love for Jesus and a love for the people of the area, particularly Chesham Folds. They and BCF have been helping needy families during lockdown. At the start of the year, Ben joined Nigel, Sarah and a couple of others to pray for Chesham Folds each Monday morning. In August they ran a holiday club at the local school, and BCF held a service in the park. This service has become a monthly fixture moving to the local school as winter approached. These activities has led to increased contact with people in the area. As we have prayed together, we have increasingly felt the need for a church in the area, which can be a regular presence and witness to the community of east Bury. Somewhere where those who are helped by various care projects may hear the gospel and be discipled.







# THE VISION - A NEW CHURCH

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always till the end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:16-29*

The vision is to establish such a church in the east Bury area, a community of believers who love God, love one another and love their community.

To do this in 2022 Ben is seeking to move to east Bury and begin praying for and gathering a small team to start a church in the area. There are many uncertainties, but we know that the gospel of Jesus Christ is certain, and the hope of the gospel is for everybody.

God willing, over the next year, this small group will grow and be able to begin meeting as a church in the area, to make, grow and equip disciples of Christ. The longing is not just for another church, but that we might see people come to know Christ and live for him. We long to see people won for Christ in east Bury and beyond.



**Rev. Matt Thompson**  
Minister, Christ Church Stockport

“There is no doubt that there is a great need for many more churches in Bury and I am delighted that Ben is seeking to pioneer a plant there. Ben is a gospel man with a big heart for mission. I am excited to support him and see how the Lord will use him. I have no hesitation in commending Ben or his plans to you.



# OUR PURPOSE

The aim is to establish a church to glorify God by making disciples of Christ teaching, disciples from the Bible to grow in Christ and equipping disciples to live out that teaching in every part of life, for the good of their neighbour and the glory of God.

## MAKE

DISCIPLES

Proclaiming Christ to those who do not know Him so that they might come to a living faith in Him.

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."*

*Matt. 28:19*

## GROW

DISCIPLES

Proclaiming Christ to those who know Him so that they would be deeply rooted in Him.

*"...as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him ..."*

*Col. 2:6-7*

## EQUIP

DISCIPLES

Proclaiming Christ to those who know Him so they would be equipped to serve one another, the wider church and the world.

*"...to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."*

*Eph. 4:12*





# VALUES

1

## BIBLICALLY FAITHFUL

We believe the scriptures are God breathed, living and active. As such they are to be read, expounded, taught and obeyed. The word of God is our highest authority in all matters of faith and behaviour as it points us to Christ and calls us to sit at his feet in discipleship. We will be a church who are saturated in the Word of God.

2

## GOSPEL DRIVEN

The heart of the Christian faith is the message that Jesus Christ has come to save sinners from the wrath of God by dying in their place as a substitutionary atonement and by bestowing upon them his righteousness. This undeserved favour is received through both repentance and faith. As such we must be a church who calls people to turn from sin, and a church that demonstrates how Christ is the only worthy rock in whom to put our faith.

3

## CONFESSIONALLY COMMITTED

Recognising the priority of God's Word, we see the importance of being clear about what we understand the Bible to teach. To this end we are committed to our confessional statements (39 articles, Jerusalem Statement) not as an alternative authority to the Bible but as stating what we believe the Bible to teach. While we welcome anyone, who wishes to join us and sit under the word of God, our confessional standards guard the truth of the Bible as we understand it.

4

## PRAYERFULLY DEPENDENT

Convinced that Christ builds his Church as God, by His Holy Spirit, works within us, we are committed to seeking his will and strength in prayer. Prayer is vital to our relationship with God. We aim to depend on God through regular, disciplined and spontaneous, corporate and individual prayer.

5

## FELLOWSHIP BUILDING

We believe that the people of God are a family formed by God, who belong to God and so belong together. Therefore, we seek not just to establish meetings or activities in which we all take part, but to establish a community of love and fellowship through which we show one another, and those outside the community, the gracious love that God has shown us.

6

## PROVIDENTIALLY PLANNING

We believe that all things are under the providential care of God, not least the building of His Church. We recognize that not all elements of God's detailed plan have been revealed to us, beyond what has been revealed in Scripture. Therefore, we seek, in obedience to God, to use all that He has given, to act and to take risks, trusting his providential care.

7

## COMMUNITY LOVING

God is a generous God of love who calls us to love our neighbour. We actively seek ways to generously love people, through acts of service, mercy and partnership. We believe the most loving thing that we can do is share the Gospel with others, and although this does not preclude other forms of loving our community, it does mean that we long all types of people from the local community hear the Gospel, and in time are represented in our church family.

8

## CONTEXTUALLY FORMED

The call to love your neighbour means that we are called to understand and know the people to whom we are called to serve. This means to know and understand the culture in which we are based and seek to communicate the message of the Gospel in an appropriate manner that will be understood and engaged with by those within our particular context. Whilst the message and content of the Gospel must never change the presentation and communication of the Gospel needs to be relevant and accessible in order for it to be heard, understood and believed.



# BEN WILLIAMSON



Ben grew up in South West London. He had the wonderful privilege of growing up in a Christian family and wonderfully cannot remember a time when he did not trust the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation. He was discipled at youth group in Wimbledon and through into university he increasingly learned what it means to follow Jesus as Lord. Throughout this time, he had a growing desire to serve God's people by teaching the Bible and serving the church.

Ben attended the Cornhill Training Course for two years just after university and worked for a church in Ealing, West London.

After Cornhill, and a year working in administration Ben trained as a Maths teacher and completed his NQT year at a school in Sutton.

With a desire to return to full-time Christian ministry he approached a mission agency, Crosslinks, with a view to explore mission work overseas.

With Crosslinks, he worked for Johannesburg Bible College for two and half year, teaching basic Bible handling skills. During this time, he got to know a local pastor who invited him to serve as assistant pastor at an inner-city church in Johannesburg, Christ Church Hillbrow. A year later, after the death of the pastor, Ben was asked to take over the leadership of the Church and was ordained in 2014. During this time, he also completed a Honours degree in Theology at a reformed university North West University, Potchefstroom.

Keen to return to church ministry back in the UK and to see indigenous leadership SA, in 2017 Ben took on a curate, Godfrey, at Christ Church Hillbrow. After two-years Ben was able to hand over the church to him. Godfrey, asked Ben to stay on to assist him until the end of 2020, which Ben did while also continuing to work at Johannesburg Bible College.

Ben returned to the UK in November 2020 and was accepted by the Anglican Mission in England to church plant in the north of Manchester. In January 2021, Ben moved to Stockport, to work with AMiE church Christ Church Stockport, preparing to pioneer a church plant in Bury in 2022.

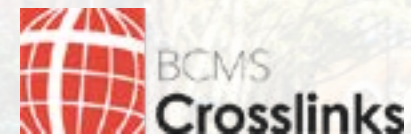
# CONNECTIONS

Ben has been accepted as an Anglican Mission in England (AMiE) church planter.

AMiE is a fellowship of faithful Anglican churches committed to gospel mission. We are passionate about planting, strengthening and partnering for the salvation of many and the glory of God. We long to see the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed to all nations and we are determined to play our part in the Great Commission. Our prayerful ambition is to see the existence of 25 AMiE churches by 2025 and 250 by 2050. In December 2020, we were recognised by Gafcon as a Convocation. A Convocation is another term for a diocese-in-formation. This healthy structure will enable fruitful mission. Ben has been formally assessed and has transferred his ordination to AMiE, he is under the oversight of Bishop Andy Lines.

More locally he is working with Christ Church Stockport and is in partnership with the North West Partnership, a group of Bible believing Evangelicals in the North of England and Wales.

Ben is also continuing this new role as a Crosslinks mission partner, and Anglican mission agency.





# PLAN

## PHASE 1

**Preparation | Jan – Jun 2021**  
**Completed Aim of the Phase:**

To establish a base at Christ Church Stockport as a launch for a church plant in part of north Manchester. During this time I have served at Christ Church Stockport and spent increasing time seeking to understand the need in the north of Greater Manchester.

## PHASE 2

**Planning | Aug – Dec 2021**  
**Completed aim of the Phase:**

I have identified where there is a need in Bury, and sought to build local partnerships supportive of the idea of planting a new church.

## PHASE 3

**Pre-Launch | Jan -Aug 2022**  
**Aim of the Phase:**

To establish a core group for the church which know one another and are growing in Christ.

### **Description:**

In early 2022 I intend to move to Bury and start to gather a launch team for the church. I will continue to meet with a small groups praying and seeking to establish the presence of a new church in the area. The phase will also be

about building further links with the community so that they might know the church and we might have and evangelistic focus from the beginning. We will continue monthly outreach meetings alongside weekly prayer meetings.

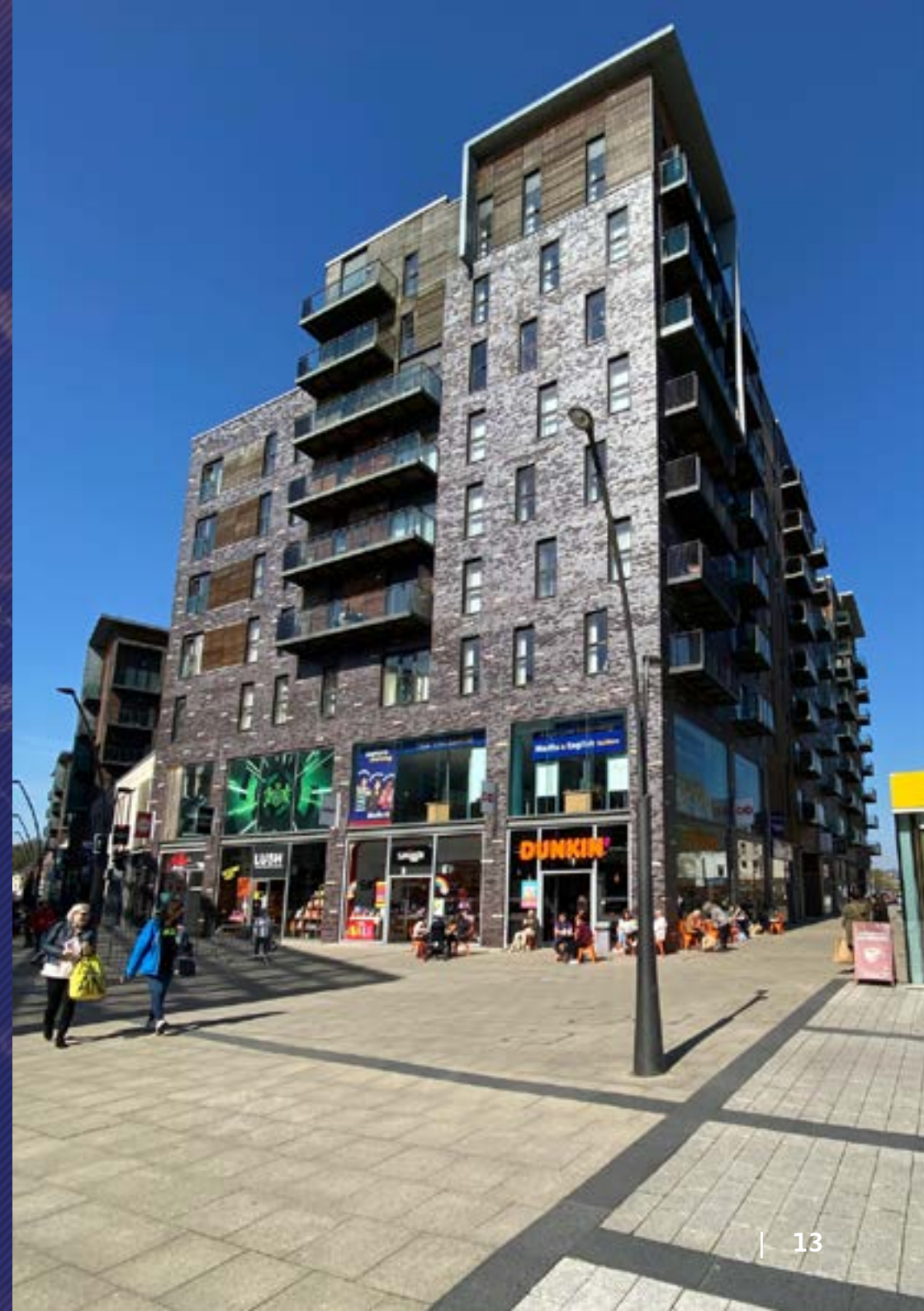
## PHASE 4

**Launch | Sept 2022**  
**Aim of the Phase:**

To meet as a church and establish the church grounded in the gospel and reaching out for Christ.

### **Description:**

The fourth phase is the launch of the church, but this is not the end, we aim to establish a church which will make disciples, grow disciples and equip disciples for service in God's kingdom. We will therefore focus on our core values and identity, so that we are grounded in the gospel, but also in the mission of the church so that we can continue to reach out and grow



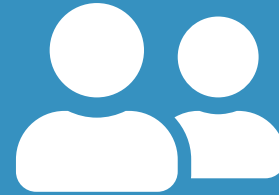


# THE NEED



## PRAYER

We covet your prayers for a new church plant in Bury. Please consider frequently partnering us in this way. Sign up for regular prayer letters at [northmanchesterplant.org.uk](http://northmanchesterplant.org.uk).



## PEOPLE

We long for people, Christians who might be willing to join a small core team, even to move to Bury and most of all we long for people to be converted. We want to reach people for Christ.



## FINANCE

In order to make this happen we need the Lord's provision, for the first instance this is provision for Ben to be able to move to Bury and begin working in the community. Beyond this there will be costs to run activities and in due course the church. As we are the early stage, we are seeking to secure funds for to cover salary costs for the next two years, while the church is established.

## PARTNERING WITH US

If you would like to find out more to partner with me in prayer or financial giving, please do get in touch.

Or you can visit my Crosslinks page at <https://www.crosslinks.org/people-and-places/europe/ben-williamson/>

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# BURY CHURCH

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PLANT

## GET IN TOUCH

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If you would like more information or would like to be involved in this exciting new venture please get in touch:



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