



**GLOUCESTER  
VINEYARD  
CHURCH**

# **Becoming a multisite church...**

...why, when,  
where, how and  
much, much more!

**[www.gloucestervineyard.org](http://www.gloucestervineyard.org)**



*We are creating  
communities  
which bring  
hope and joy to  
Gloucestershire!*



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This booklet is intended to be a companion to the announcement we made on the 28<sup>th</sup> September. If you missed it **you can catch up here.**



# *What's the big idea?*

In April 2026 we will be launching a **new expression** of our church in the north of Gloucester!

*In doing so we will become  
a multisite church!\**

## multisite church

*noun (MULL-tee-syte CHURCH)*

A single church that meets in multiple locations within a defined area

\*(Psst! We're going to be using the terms **site/congregation/expression** interchangeably, we mean the same thing)





That's quite a big idea, and no doubt you've got lots of questions about what that means, how that's going to work and what is going to change. We're planning to talk this through a lot in the coming months and **this booklet aims to address some of your initial questions** as we go on this journey together!



# *The story so far...*

As a church we've felt compelled that our county will always need more **local, healthy, outward focused, Spirit filled churches**. Places where Jesus is worshipped, where communities are served, where the arrival of the Kingdom of God is announced and demonstrated, where people are healed and where real, deep community happens.

**We love our church**, we're chuffed that God has created a really beautiful expression of His Kingdom here in the centre of Gloucester.

We know that **God's heart is always for those far away**, and the reality is that there are many places in Gloucestershire where there is not a church like ours nearby.

We don't think it's our job to establish a church community in every neighbourhood in this county – we're not talking about the great Gloucester Vineyard Church empire...**but we do want to do our bit**, alongside the other churches in Gloucestershire, to establish **new and thriving** Jesus communities where there are none at present.

Over the years, as we have been **praying** about this, we have heard God repeatedly confirm this idea **prophetically** from voices inside and outside our church and we've moved towards the idea of becoming a multisite church. This is where a church like ours expresses itself in **two or more locations** but keeps the same senior pastors, trustees, DNA, culture and ethos.

Basically, do all of the good stuff we're currently doing but more and elsewhere!

We think our way of being church lends itself to **smaller localised expressions.**

Can you imagine a GVC congregation in your neighbourhood? Reaching out to meet the felt needs of your neighbours on a Super Sunday? Gathering in your local community centre? Being visible and active amongst your neighbours?

We have been **training** and **preparing** and **praying** for this moment for years, waiting for the moment when the timing is right to make this exciting next step...

*...And we believe  
the time is now!*

*This might seem like a big idea,  
but it's not a new idea, it's part of  
our vision and our DNA...*

We want to see **everyone**<sup>1</sup> in

**Gloucestershire**<sup>2</sup>

**thriving**<sup>3</sup> in community,

**encountering**<sup>4</sup> Jesus,

and **walking**<sup>5</sup> in his footsteps.

So,

we are creating **communities**<sup>6</sup> which  
bring **hope and joy**<sup>7</sup> to Gloucestershire!



1. That's around **673,200** people
2. Our patch: from Coleford to Stroud, Cheltenham to Cirencester. It's a **big, diverse county!**
3. John 10:10 – Jesus came that we could have **“a rich and fulfilling life”** i.e. to thrive!
4. We believe that true life and transformation comes from **an encounter with Jesus**, so we want to be constantly introducing people to Him!
5. AKA **discipleship**. Jesus' instructions to us in Matt 28 still stand!
6. This means new sites, new community groups (like Chai & Chat or Vibes), missional communities, Super Sundays, homegroups...**you name it!**
7. We have the best reason in the world to be hopeful and the best reason in the world to be joyful...and **we're not supposed to keep it to ourselves!**



# *Let's get Technical...*

"What's the difference between a church plant and a site?" (I thought you'd never ask...)

In essence, launching a site looks very similar to planting a church but it's quicker and, in many ways, simpler because there is much more local resource and momentum to draw on.

The hope is that we see all the **wonderful Kingdom fruit** that we'd hope to see from a church plant whilst reducing the human and financial cost. It's also a **scalable multiplication strategy**. If we were to launch more sites in the future, these new systems and experience will come in handy!

Here's some key examples of ways a site is different to a church plant...

**Trustees,  
charitable  
status,  
bank  
accounts,  
policies  
etc...**

A **church plant** starts everything from scratch – from charitable status to bank accounts...lots of admin!

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A **site** uses those existing things with minor tweaks and is free to get on with Kingdom work!

**Vision,  
values,  
DNA,  
identity  
etc..**

A **church plant** discerns, discovers, defines, articulates, tweaks and grows this stuff over years.

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A **site** is a natural expansion and expression of our existing vision, values and DNA!

**Local  
impact**

A **church plant** has lots of natural energy and momentum and often sees lots of people coming to faith. New expressions are fun to be part of and community grows around that pioneering edge.

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A **site** has all those things too but is quicker and cheaper to get going!

**Cost**

A **church plant** takes a lot of time, energy and money to establish!

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Launching a **site** is also costly but there are lots of efficiency savings as many costs are smaller due to being extensions of existing systems and policies rather than new ones.

# *Our first step towards a big vision...GVC North*

In April 2026 we will be sending a small and well equipped team to go and establish a new GVC community based in the north of Gloucester!

## *Why north?*

**There are lots of reasons why we feel God calling us north, but some of the main ones are:**

- There are **no churches** in Innsworth/Longford/Down Hatherley or the new housing estates being built...*can you believe that?*
- A fair few GVC people live up there already, making it **easier to create genuine community**
- There's some really exciting opportunities for mission, including loads of new houses being built and an organisation called Sportily doing lots of **outreach in the neighbourhood**



*What do you mean by small team?*

Probably about **8-10 people**.

*What will the team be doing?*

They will form a **home group** or two, run **alpha courses**, hold parties and **gathering** events, create a new local **Super Sunday** and gather on Sundays for stripped back **worship** and prayer gatherings.

*What will Sundays look like?*

We will meet every Sunday in the mornings. These gatherings will be **very low key** (there won't be many people in the room at first) but we plan to worship, play games and there will be something for kids who attend. Generally it will be a gathering much like our current one, but scaled back and **simplified until it grows**.

## *What can I do to be part of it?*


- Pray! For wisdom, favour and the Kingdom to breakthrough in the **north!**
- Get stuck in and invested in the **centre**
- **Give generously** of your time, energy and money (see page 19)

## *Can I join the team in the north?*

Good question!

- Do you feel a **sense of call** to new and pioneering church expressions?
- Are you **passionate** about north Gloucester and the surrounding neighbourhoods?
- Are you ready, able and willing to **roll up your sleeves, work hard** and sacrifice for the Kingdom?

If **'yes'** then you should seriously consider being part of the GVC North team...come and talk to Daniel & Emily!





But if not, **that's ok!** We've all signed up for church in the afternoon in the city centre. This is new and if you don't feel called to it there is **SO much** to get stuck in with in the centre!

We are **one church** with **one vision**, expressed in **more than one location**. Each of us should consider what it means to be committed and invested in whichever location Jesus lays on our hearts to be part of.

Remember, this is not something exciting that a small group of us are leaving to do. This is something that **we are all doing together**. Some of us will have a role to in the centre, others will be called to the north. **All of us have a part to play whichever site we chose to call home.**

## *Talk to me about leadership...*

Honestly, this is one of the things we find the **most exciting** about this plan! This is a wonderful opportunity to create LOADS of opportunities for some of us to step up into new leadership roles and responsibilities and to use **our giftings for the Kingdom!**

This is an opportunity for Emily and Daniel to reposition themselves in such a way that other people with different giftings can **step up** and start using their giftings for the Kingdom in a way that the Smiths can't.

**Basically, this is what the church's governance structure will look like in Easter 2026\***

Trustees  
Senior Leadership Team  
Site Pastors & Site Teams  
Homegroup leaders

\*Psst! Worth noting that this isn't us leaning into hierarchy and titles in a new way, we still want to be as low key as possible. But **good governance keeps things sweet and safe**, and it's just worth noting who is responsible and accountable to whom.

# ???? Quick question...

## **What about homegroups and youth?**

As a church we will have one homegroup network and one youth group. There won't be 'north/central site only groups' - people can be part of whichever they like.

## **What else will we do as one church?**

We will do homegroup leaders training together, weekend away all together as well as regular moments throughout the year to **gather as a whole for prayer and worship.**

**We're looking at everything we do and would like to do as a church and asking, "would that be more effective if it was done locally or centrally?" As a leaders team we want to equip and release people to go and do Kingdom stuff with the least faff tying them down as possible!**

*Who's leading in each site?*



## **Central Site Pastors Chez and Don Vinson!**

Chez and Don are **stepping up** to take on the leadership of the central site! **Alongside their team** (tbc!) they will continue to announce and demonstrate the Kingdom of God from St John's! We love the way Chez and Don live out their walk with Jesus in their family life, workplaces and in our church community and **we're excited** to see what God will do through their leadership!



## North Site Pastors Emily and Daniel Smith

Emily and Daniel will be taking the lessons learned from 8 years of church planting and applying them in the new site! They're also going to be leading the site **through and alongside a team** who will be committed to the north expression. The plan is to **identify and establish north Site Pastors** to take over from the Smiths in due course.

### So, are Emily and Daniel disappearing?

Absolutely not! The Smiths will **remain the Senior Pastors** of the church, they will still preach, lead gatherings and lead worship regularly and will be present at both gatherings as often as they are at the moment.

*Ok, let's be honest for a sec...*


**"This seems like something a bigger church would do..."**

You're not wrong - generally speaking a church would wait until they have outgrown their space before they make a move like this. We feel that God has asked us to **step out in faith**, trusting Him to provide the resources, people and opportunities we need to make this work.

**"I'm concerned how this will impact the central congregation"**

You're not alone! As we've been making these plans, the **health and wellbeing** of the central congregation has been in the forefront of our minds. It's one of the reasons we're so happy to have **Chez and Don** on board, taking the lead!





**"This sounds  
expensive...who's  
paying for this?"**

Part of our preparation for this moment of transition has been to **save any excess income** from previous years to help fund this planned multiplication. We're happy to say we've got a fairly healthy **nest egg** to get the site launched well.

We hope that as the new site gets established and new people come to faith and join in **the site will become financially self-sufficient**. There will also be an opportunity for all of us to give one-off over and above our regular giving in the new year, especially for this project! (there will be more detail on finances at our regular financial presentation in January)



# *So what happens next?*

## **Autumn 2025**

For the rest of 2025 we are going to be finalising our **plans**, building the **teams** for the centre and the north and starting to build **relationships** in the north.

## **January 2026**

Chez and Don will take over the leadership of the central congregation, alongside Daniel and Emily for a term.

We will **start doing events** in the north to get the word out, meet some folks and start inviting them along to our Launch.

## **April 2026**

On Easter Day (5<sup>th</sup> April) the new site will launch!



## *Let's remember Jesus' attitude...*

"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? **Won't he leave the ninety-nine** others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will **joyfully** carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' In the same way, **there is more joy in heaven** over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!"

*Luke 15 v 4 - 6*

*We worship a God  
who left the 99 to find the 1  
Each of us was that 1 once upon a time*

Let's join Jesus in His mission of **extending His Kingdom** and going out in search of the lost, the broken and the lonely!

## *Got questions?*

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There will be a Q&A session at the  
SuperChargeSunday  
5<sup>th</sup> Oct | 4pm | St Johns

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There will also be an online  
Q&A session on Zoom  
20<sup>th</sup> Oct | 7:30pm | Join via this QR

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