

To glorify God by becoming a transforming community for London



Stretch 21 Prayer Guide



January 2010

commitment to & connection with our city

facilities to support local charities &
community groups

welcoming space for **local people** & 'day-time' hammersmith

expanded children's church

café on the green

larger debt advice centre

space for courses, events, concerts & rehearsals

meeting rooms for pastoral care and **prayer**

break-out rooms for conferences



This is the great FAITH adventure.

The formation of CityShapers; a generation shaped by God to shape the city.

Our vision as a church is to glorify God by becoming a transforming community for London. We believe God is calling us to play a part in shaping London for the better – to see the city and its inhabitants flourish through the influence of a generation of dynamic, urban, missional disciples who have discovered their God-given place and purpose in the city. At the heart of this vision is the Stretch 21 project; to extend our present building to provide a facility for the mission of St Paul's in the 21 Century. So we are beginning 2010 with a month of prayer to seek God for his vision and provision of all that we will need to complete this project.

This prayer guide is to help you in your rhythm of prayer throughout the prayer month. Each week begins with the scripture that we will be looking at as a church for meditation and reflection. Then there are prayers related to Stretch 21 which we will all be praying together as a church. Please feel free to use it as a guide to aid your own praying and take it with you to your place of work or home.

Month of Prayer

Early Morning Prayer

Join us for early morning prayer followed by breakfast
Wednesdays 6, 13, 20 & 27 Jan, 7-8am in the chapel

Be part of the 24 hour Prayer Room

Join us for the whole time or for a few hours to take part in our 24 hour Prayer Room.
Friday 22, 7pm to Saturday 23 Jan, 7pm in the Chapel

Join in the whole church Prayer Night

Tuesday 26 Jan, 7.30pm in the Main Church (7pm for food)

Catch the Vision

Vision Meetings

Especially for all those who have joined us in the last three years. Come and find out more about the Stretch 21 vision and building project and find out how you can get involved

Monday 18 Jan, 7.30pm in the Main Church

Sunday 24 Jan, 8pm in the Chapel

Sunday Services

Sundays 10, 24 & 31 Jan at the 10.30am & 6pm services

Gift Day

Sunday 31 Jan at the 10.30am & 6pm services

Stretch 21 Adventure Update

Please find copies at the back of the church

Week One

The LORD has done great things for us

PSALM 126

¹ When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion,
we were like men who dreamed.

² Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.

Then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negev.

⁵ Those who sow in tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ He who goes out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with him.

Spend some time reading these verses above soaking up any word or phrase which attracts your attention. Repeat the word or phrase again and again allowing it to speak to you. Ask God if there is anything he may be saying to you.

Prayers - Week One

Praying for Vision

Releasing the nave and chancel

- Pray for St Paul's to become Hammersmith's cathedral space
- For a sanctuary space to be reclaimed for ministry time and extended worship on Sundays
- For the Stage and Chancel area to become the day time Chapel in front of the Mackesey Triptych
- For assemblies, schools, and charities services in the church
- For St Paul's to be open to the public mid-week, drawing people in through the café
- For regular lunch time services to attract people who live and work in Hammersmith
- For the church to be used as a multi purpose space

Praying for Provision

- Thank God for His amazing provision in relation to securing planning permission and raising the funds for the project – £3.8m so far
- Thank God for the freedom and faith that was released as we as a congregation sacrificially pledged £1.7m
- Pray that God, who knows what we need before we ask it, continues to lead us in faith as we raise the remaining £1.95m
- For the Gift Day on 31 January, pray that God speaks to us each individually about what and how to give to the building of our vision

Imagine...



Week Two
The Future Glory

Isaiah 54:1-8

¹ "Sing, O barren woman,
you who never bore a child;
burst into song, shout for joy,
you who were never in labour;
because more are the children of the desolate woman
than of her who has a husband,"
says the LORD.

² "Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back;
lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.

³ For you will spread out to the right and to the left;
your descendants will dispossess nations
and settle in their desolate cities.

⁴ "Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame.
Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated.
You will forget the shame of your youth
and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.

⁵ For your Maker is your husband—
the LORD Almighty is his name—
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer;
he is called the God of all the earth.

⁶ The LORD will call you back
as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit—
a wife who married young,
only to be rejected," says your God.

⁷ "For a brief moment I abandoned you,
but with deep compassion I will bring you back.

⁸ In a surge of anger
I hid my face from you for a moment,
but with everlasting kindness
I will have compassion on you,"
says the LORD your Redeemer.

Spend some time reading these verses above soaking up any word or phrase which attracts your attention. Repeat the word or phrase again and again allowing it to speak to you. Ask God if there is anything he may be saying to you.

Prayers - Week Two

Praying for Vision Building CityShapers

- Pray for the growth of Children's church and the faithful and fruitful discipling of our children
- For the growth of our Youth ministry, to raise faithful and powerful young CityShapers
- For increasing community, accountability, and depth in our Life Groups to support us as we impact our city and beyond
- For our Alpha course to be known across Hammersmith and increasingly attract those hungry for more than our city offers
- For our Living Free Course to become a staple part of our discipleship at St Paul's and that through this we as a congregation will be lead in a greater understanding of our identity and freedom in Christ, released to shape our city
- For the Marriage Course to grow and benefit married couples in the church and in our community outside the church
- For our training and discipleship of CityShapers that impact our city for Christ's Kingdom
- For increase in great resources for more Life Groups and Clusters

Praying for Provision

- Ask God to show us ways He wants to stretch our faith
- For the Bryen & Langley construction group who have been appointed as the main building contractor, to begin the main construction contract as agreed immediately after Easter 2010
- For effective use of our building and for it to be a statement of our commitment to and connection with our city

Imagine...



Week Three

Choose whom you will serve

Joshua 24:14-15

¹⁴ "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Spend some time reading these verses above soaking up any word or phrase which attracts your attention. Repeat the word or phrase again and again allowing it to speak to you. Ask God if there is anything he may be saying to you.

Prayers - Week Three

Praying for Vision

Welcoming the Community

- Pray that the Café space would attract the Hammersmith public in to the church and in to a relationship with Christ
- For prayer rooms and ministry space
- For the growth and impact of the Debt Counselling Service with the increased space available
- For the prosperity of SPEAR and for them to make use of the new space for their training
- For the growth of the Bridge youth group and its links with our local Hammersmith young people
- For mums and toddler groups and increased awareness of St Paul's by mothers and mothers-to-be in and around our community
- For appropriate opportunities to let the new space and benefit our community
- Greater ability to make space available to community groups

Praying for Provision

- Pray that God would show us any 'gods' that we are worshipping and give us the power to repent
- Pray that the groundworks, exhumations, and archaeological works are carried out with due care and respect, and that there would be no unexpected findings that would delay the project
- For success as we seek additional funding from trusts, loans, businesses, and individuals outside of St Paul's

Imagine...



Week Four

Giving from the heart

2 Corinthians 9:1-11

¹There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the saints. ²For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action. ³But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be. ⁴For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident. ⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Spend some time reading these verses above soaking up any word or phrase which attracts your attention. Repeat the word or phrase again and again allowing it to speak to you. Ask God if there is anything he may be saying to you.

Prayers - Week Four

Praying for Vision

The wider church; locally and globally

- Pray that the church will be used for the benefit and growth of the wider church, both locally and globally
- Pray that St Paul's will be part of a wider blessing to our city and the world as charities and organisations use the space for meetings and conferences – e.g. Tearfund training, Willow Creek Leadership conferences, and Church Planting conferences
- Pray that as those living and working in Hammersmith see a new church emerge they will be attracted to find out more and that they will find us growing and full of life

Praying for Provision

- Pray that God would lead all members of St Paul's in their giving to Stretch 21 and the running of the church. May we be obedient to his call
- Pray for our cashflow, that the timing of income and expenditure would be sufficient at each stage of the project
- Pray that the building will be completed on time for June/July 2011 and on budget at £5.8m and that God would be glorified through this beacon of hope

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