



## 2025 Vision - THRIVING

Our nation Scotland generally and statistically is unhealthy in the areas of diet, obesity, physical activity and mental health.<sup>1</sup> Many marriages end up in divorce leaving a trail of damage and pain in the wake. Churches in Scotland are ageing, becoming irrelevant and ten congregations are closing their doors every single month.<sup>2</sup> But we believe this is not God's vision for His children and church.

We have a vision of **thriving** people, churches, cities and nations. This means we see them flourishing, prospering, growing and developing vigorously.

We have a vision of a THRIVING worshipping people who enjoy life with their God and have a burning desire to make Him famous<sup>3</sup>. They are blessed<sup>4</sup> and healthy in body, mind and spirit.<sup>5</sup> Babies and plants need the right environment and nutrients to thrive and we believe healthy relationships are the good soil where nurture and healthy growth comes from. Not only are nutrients essential for health but so is the absence of toxic and unhealthy substances. So we will ensure our people are nurtured in the good soil of healthy relationships and growing strong with a healthy diet and regular detox<sup>6 7</sup> We see each person living (like Jesus) in a healthy and vibrant restored relationship with God, self, others and creation.<sup>8 9</sup> We will ensure each person has a family<sup>10</sup> and Personal Trainer<sup>11</sup> who is a

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.brierleyconsultancy.com/scottish-church-census/>

<sup>3</sup> "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." Westminster Shorter Catechism.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.thevinechurch.com/sermons/transforming-cities-week-1/>

<sup>5</sup> Joh 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

3Jn 1:2 "Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul."

Psa 72:16 "May there be abundant grain throughout the land, flourishing even on the hilltops. May the fruit trees flourish like the trees of Lebanon, and may the people thrive like grass in a field." Isa 44:3-4 "For I will pour out water to quench your thirst and to irrigate your parched fields. And I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants, and my blessing on your children. (4) They will thrive like watered grass, like willows on a riverbank." Psa 92:13 "For they are transplanted to the LORD's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God." Psa 144:12 "May our sons flourish in their youth like well-nurtured plants. May our daughters be like graceful pillars, carved to beautify a palace." Eze 47:9 "There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this river flows. Fish will abound in the Dead Sea, for its waters will become fresh. Life will flourish wherever this water flows."

<sup>6</sup> Rom.12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Act 3:19-20

"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,"

<sup>7</sup> "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." Rom 8:29

<sup>8</sup> See "When Helping Hurts" Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Helping-Hurts-Corbett-Fikkert-Perkins/dp/0802409989>

<sup>9</sup> See Triangle Life Shape (Up, In, Out) by Mike Breen in "Discipleship Culture" <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Building-Discipling-Culture-Mike-Breen/dp/069286234X>

<sup>10</sup> See "Family on Mission" by Mike and Sally Breen. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Family-Mission-Sally-Breen-ebook/dp/B00KFTJUTI>

<sup>11</sup> "Disciplemaking is an intentional friendship with another person with Jesus at its core." Ralph Moore "Making Disciples"



friend coaching and inspiring them in these four vital relationships which are they key to a flourishing life.<sup>12 13</sup> The fruit that is birthed will lead to THRIVING marriages, families, friendships and businesses. Each person will be released into their full leadership potential who bless and serve others.<sup>14</sup>

We see a people with vibrant relationships who view their work not as a toil to be endured but who view their work as their purpose to bring beauty and flourishing to the world.<sup>15 16</sup> Our people enjoy their work and see it as a significant part of their purpose and calling to influence the arts and entertainment, media, government, education, sport and business leading to city transformation.<sup>17</sup> Through influence we see these people impacting their workplaces with peace, joy, order and success.<sup>18</sup>

Blessing and joy is found in the home and in a healthy family. We believe every person in Dunfermline is invited to come home and enjoy the peace, security, hope and joy of being at home with Father.<sup>19</sup> Every life was made in the likeness of God and has incredible purpose and we want to help people rediscover their original purpose in this world.<sup>20</sup> And we believe this invitation starts with

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<sup>12</sup> Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>13</sup> Joh 15:4-5 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

<sup>14</sup> "And the locus of leadership is the Church of Jesus Christ. She has been designed by God to develop and produce leaders who bless and serve others." "Because a local church exists to serve her community, to bless the world, and to be a light to the nations, then the leaders developed in each local church are developed for much more than each local church. In the church we are recruiting leaders to a mission bigger than the smaller ones the world offers." Designed to Lead" Eric Geiger and Kevin Peck. Kindle loc. 242 and 302

<sup>15</sup> "Called to Create" Jordan Raynor <http://www.calledtcreate.org/>

<sup>16</sup> "What the Bible offers is not a "works contract," but a covenant of vocation. The vocation in question is that of being a genuine human being, with genuinely human tasks to perform as part of the Creator's purpose for his world. The main task of this vocation is "image-bearing," reflecting the Creator's wise stewardship into the world and reflecting the praises of all creation back to its maker. Those who do so are the "royal priesthood," the "kingdom of priests," the people who are called to stand at the dangerous but exhilarating point where heaven and earth meet." N.T Wright. "The Day the Revolution Began" p76

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.generals.org/rpn/the-seven-mountains/>

<sup>18</sup> "The fact that you were made in the image of God tells you not just about your worth, but also about your destiny. The main point of "image of God" language in scripture is not about some ability or trait we share with God, it's about the mission He has given us... Through our learning, our work, our culture, our relationships, technology, the arts, medicine; we are with humility to add goodness and beauty to families and societies and creation so that God's whole project becomes a glorious delight to all who see it." John Ortberg

<sup>19</sup> Luke 15

<sup>20</sup> "Imago Dei" sermon by Aaron Dowds on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017. <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/sunday-sermons/id1106393927?mt=2&i=1000381150127>



love and kindness and compassion.<sup>21</sup> Our people love Dunfermline and are prayer warriors for the city and its people for its success and welfare.<sup>22</sup> Our people have a heart for all people especially the poor, broken, hurting and needy.<sup>23 24</sup> Like Jesus are known as a people who eat and drink with the people of the city in order to listen to them and to serve them.<sup>25 26 27</sup> We see Dunfermline filled and saturated with people who are loving and serving the needs of the city practically. Our people spray the fragrant “good news” aroma all across the city to bring God’s kindness, power and transforming message.<sup>28 29</sup> Our people are fluent in the “good news” and confident to share their story at every

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<sup>21</sup> Luke 10:25-37 Luk 10:37 “The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.thevinechurch.com/sermons/transforming-cities-week-1/>

<sup>23</sup> Isa 61:1-2 “The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, for the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. (2) He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD’s favor has come, and with it, the day of God’s anger against their enemies.”

<sup>24</sup> “The imperative of love and compassion from Christ to the marginalised in society came as a natural outworking of these 2 precepts that every human being is made in the image of God and you shall love your neighbour as yourself.” Ravi Zacharias

<sup>25</sup> Mar 2:15-17 “Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus’ followers.) (16) But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, “Why does he eat with such scum?” (17) When Jesus heard this, he told them, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

<sup>26</sup> “Hospitality is fundamentally an act of missional evangelism... If you believe we live in a post-Christian world, and you believe this is a crisis, then let’s act like it. The way we deal with crisis is to understand that hospitality is a form of spiritual warfare. We call down from heaven the power of the gospel to save, and we embrace our unsaved neighbours.” Rosaria Butterfield <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/april-web-only/rosaria-butterfield-gospel-comes-house-key.html>

<sup>27</sup> Luke 14:12-13 “He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind...” “You see this passage, it’s about a lot more than food. It’s about relationship. The passage is about treating the poor and the crippled and the lame and the blind with the same sense of love and honour and respect and appreciation that you have for your friends, your rich neighbours, and your relatives.” Brad Watson <https://saturatetheworld.com/2018/05/01/sharing-your-table/>

<sup>28</sup> “Reaching the Lost” message from 22.09.17 Luke 4:18 “The Spirit<sup>G4151</sup> of the Lord<sup>G2962</sup> is upon<sup>G1909</sup> me,<sup>G1691</sup> because<sup>G3739</sup> <sup>G1752</sup> he hath anointed<sup>G5548</sup> me<sup>G3165</sup> **to preach the gospel**<sup>G2097</sup> to the poor;<sup>G4434</sup>”

<sup>29</sup> “This people whom he named the Church, are called, not only to God, but for God’s glory. We are, at our very core a missional people. This reality is the basic understanding of the identity of the New Testament church. It’s the culture of the new Kingdom under Christ. Because he has redeemed us, we join him in His mission to bring redemption to others. The mission of God is for the people of God. You can’t have a strong culture without a strong sense of mission.” “Designed to Lead” Eric Geiger and Kevin Peck. Kindle loc. 510.



opportunity.<sup>30</sup> And our people see the needs of our city and are meeting those needs by serving the city in love.

This vision of people and city transformation is not just for the city of Dunfermline but we see it spreading to other cities across Scotland, Europe and the world. By 2025 the Vine Church will meet in 5 locations impacting 5 cities.

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<sup>30</sup> Gospel Fluency by Jeff Vanderstelt



## **Additional Notes:**

Our vision focuses on two main aspects:

1. Reaching our city with good news
2. Making and maturing disciples

Rick Warren says Saddleback's slogan for 30 years is: "A Great Commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will grow a Great Church." In His book "The Purpose Driven Church" Warren the outline the five main purpose of the church as revealed through the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. He says this:

<http://globalchristiancenter.com/administrative-leadership/strategy-and-planning/25068-a-healthy-church-balances-the-five-purposes>

## **"The Importance of Balance**

Every church needs to grow warmer through fellowship, deeper through discipleship, stronger through worship, broader through ministry, and larger through evangelism.

These five purposes of the church are commanded by Jesus in the Great Commandment and Great Commission, explained by Paul in Ephesians 4, described in Jesus' prayer for the church in John 17, and modeled by the first church in Jerusalem.

In [Acts 2:42-47](#) these five facets of health are mentioned: They fellowshipped, edified each other, worshipped, ministered, and evangelized. As a result, verse 47 says, "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

## **The Five Dimensions of a Healthy Church**

1. Churches grow warmer through fellowship.
2. Churches grow deeper through discipleship.
3. Churches grow stronger through worship.
4. Churches grow broader through ministry.
5. Churches grow larger through evangelism.

We in our vision have decided to focus primarily on two key areas we believe God is calling us to.

1. Reaching our city with good news. This covers the purposes of ministry and evangelism.
2. Making and maturing disciples. This covers the purposes of worship, fellowship and discipleship.

**vine** CHURCH



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