

A photograph of a man from behind, wearing a dark green sweater, with his right hand raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The background is a church interior with warm lighting and blurred figures of other people.

Ps & Gs  
Church

# STRETCH 25

A five-year strategy for  
growth and impact

Vision 2020, our previous strategy, had four strands. Here is some of what we have achieved in five years.

## Whole-life discipleship

- We have established and grown Connect groups across the city and beyond, stretching from Leith and Musselburgh to the city centre and Colinton.
- Our children's and youth work runs fifteen groups weekly for 0-18 year olds. Our babies and toddler group was named the best in the city.
- We ran Seen and Heard, a conference attended by 180 children's ministry workers, and Leadership Conference 2019 with HTB, attended by over 200 Christian leaders.
- Over 500 people have attended courses on discipleship and relationships, including marriage, marriage preparation, spiritual gifts and parenting.

## Theological education

- Over 300 people attended our School of Theology courses to learn more about the Bible, theology and their faith.
- We helped pioneer mixed-mode training – which includes practical in-church work experience – for ordinands to the Scottish Episcopal church.
- We trained two curates and 23 interns, many of whom are now leading ministries in Ps & Gs and beyond.

## Social transformation

- We supported church members working in the health service, schools and universities, justice system and welfare provision.
- We developed partnerships with Bethany, ECM, Safe Families for Children, Home for Good and Just Love.
- We started Soul Food and we welcome over 100 guests every weekend. In five years, we've served over 22,500 meals.
- We have raised over £100,000 for the Micah Fund which supports evangelistic and social projects across Scotland.

## Church planting

- We planted All Soul's Fife, grafting into three existing congregations in Aberdour, Burntillsand and Inverkeithing, while starting a new congregation of over 100 people in a local high school.
- We planted Mustard Seed Edinburgh, gifting 60 church members and over £50,000.



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We believe God is calling us to be a church that grows whole-life disciples, sharing the whole of the gospel with the whole of society, through churches of grace.

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# WHAT IS STRETCH 25?

After much prayer and discussion by the church leadership, three strategic strands have emerged from our core vision for the next five years: **changing lives, transforming society, and deepening influence.** These then lead naturally to an ambitious programme of **church planting.**

Our society is increasingly anxious, fearful, divided and uncertain – and the church in Scotland continues to decline. But people are still spiritual, and we want the people of Scotland to know Jesus, experience God’s unconditional love, and live in supportive, caring relationships with each other.

Stretch 25 is not business as usual. This is a strategy to help change Scotland.

## CHANGING LIVES

We believe that, as we help people to deepen their relationship with Jesus, we will see lives changed.

**S 25** We will become more confident and effective in our evangelism. We will establish a series of plus-one events and services that are accessible to those who don’t normally come to church. The challenge is for everyone at Ps & Gs to invite at least one person to one event once a year.

**S 25** We will establish new creative entry points for people into the church. We will offer opportunities for new Christians to serve alongside church members, as well as offering relevant and contemporary worship and teaching.

**S 25** We will offer varied and age-appropriate pathways to help people grow in their faith. We aim to appoint a full-time student worker by 2020. We will grow the numbers in our youth work and we will increase the number of church members in discipleship groups.



# TRANSFORMING SOCIETY

We want to see our society – our city, our nation and our world – changed as we show people the practical love and care of Jesus.

**25** We will strengthen relationships with existing partner organisations and agencies, for example, offering free use of the church building.

**25** We will offer a more comprehensive and holistic service to marginalised people. We will expand and refine our Saturday meal to offer new services to our guests, identifying practical ways to help, such as addiction counselling and assistance with benefits.

**25** We will continue to partner with agencies such as Bethany, the Care Van, Social Bite, Edinburgh City Mission and CAP to feed and serve people wherever there is need.

**25** We will establish a 'caring for creation' ministry which will address issues including environmental damage and climate change. A core team will help Ps & Gs think through key environmental issues and advocate for the care of creation.

**25** We will establish a new centre to focus on physical, emotional and spiritual wholeness. Incorporating our counselling service and care and support team, we will offer advice and support in areas such as debt counselling, nutrition and fitness, mental resilience and relationships. We will continue to add new areas of focus.

# DEEPENING INFLUENCE

We want Christian voices to be heard, respected and amplified in our city and our nation.

**25** We will invest in the training and development of leaders, people who will work both within the church and in other areas of society, to influence our city, our nation and our world. We will run and support programmes such as Core Leaders, Scottish Public Leaders and Transforming Work. We will also run a pilot course for younger leaders, equipping them for their leadership roles within the church, and we will mentor people to put themselves forward for ordained ministry, by recognising and nurturing their gifts and supporting them financially.

**25** We will support those who work in positions of influence to be Christian voices at all levels of debate and decision-making in our nation.

**25** We will be a public Christian voice on key issues in Scotland. We will grow expertise in selected key issues so that we can be reliably called on for comment by journalists and media agencies, and we will develop relationships with traditional and new media contacts in our selected areas.

**25** We will develop resources for use by other churches and organisations that will influence our city and Scottish society. We will invest in physical and digital resources, such as video, blogs and printed materials, that will inform, educate and inspire. Subjects will include music, discipleship and leadership resources, and streamed talks.



# CHURCH PLANTING

We're excited about the three strands of our strategy – excited about the possibilities, the lives that can be changed, the broken parts of our world that can be mended, and the influence that we can have by speaking truth to power.

But we want to do more of it than can be achieved by Ps & Gs on York Place alone. Alongside the work of other churches, we want to reach out, to change lives in new areas of our city and nation, and make a difference in communities we don't yet know.

That means a programme of church planting.

**S** **25** By 2025, we will have planted three churches or services as part of the Ps & Gs family.

We will appoint clergy and train ordinands who can lead the church plants, supported by some of the new leaders developed as part of the Deepening Influence strand.

