



Is God calling you to join an exciting new city centre ministry team in the centre of the newest city in England, the third city of the North West?



## Wanted twelve Disciples

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Fishergate Baptist Church in Preston, is looking for a dozen committed Christians willing to join our small congregation and

become part of our team developing new patterns of Christian service and outreach at the heart of the city.



We envisage finding, involving and equipping a group of people with a passion for city centre mission and ministry. We expect they will be a mixture of male and female, young and old, locals and incomers, Baptists and other

Christians, people of vision, prayer and varied practical giftings, from evangelism to painting (of either kind!).

We think they might include a number of older couples, (empty nesters or active retired people), as well as younger people, (students, professionals, part time working people, gap year volunteers).

Some may be able to live off a pension or private income, some may support themselves by "tentmaking" jobs or chose to live on a reduced household income by part time work, or live "by faith" raising support from other Christians or churches they are linked with.

*We can't afford to support you financially, but we would like to hear from you, if you*

- *already live locally or are able to move to Preston,*
- *are willing to become an active member of, and worship with a Baptist Fellowship that is Evangelical but open and Ecumenical*
- *can offer a minimum of 8 hours of your time each week to support the work*
- *would like to serve together as part of a team exploring with God an exciting ministry together.*

Eventually before anyone joins our team we will need to meet you, look at your CV and see a reference from a church leader, but the first step is to ask for more information and contact us:

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Minister: Rev. Neil Jones

# Fishergate Baptist Church <sup>12</sup>

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## Wanted twelve Disciples

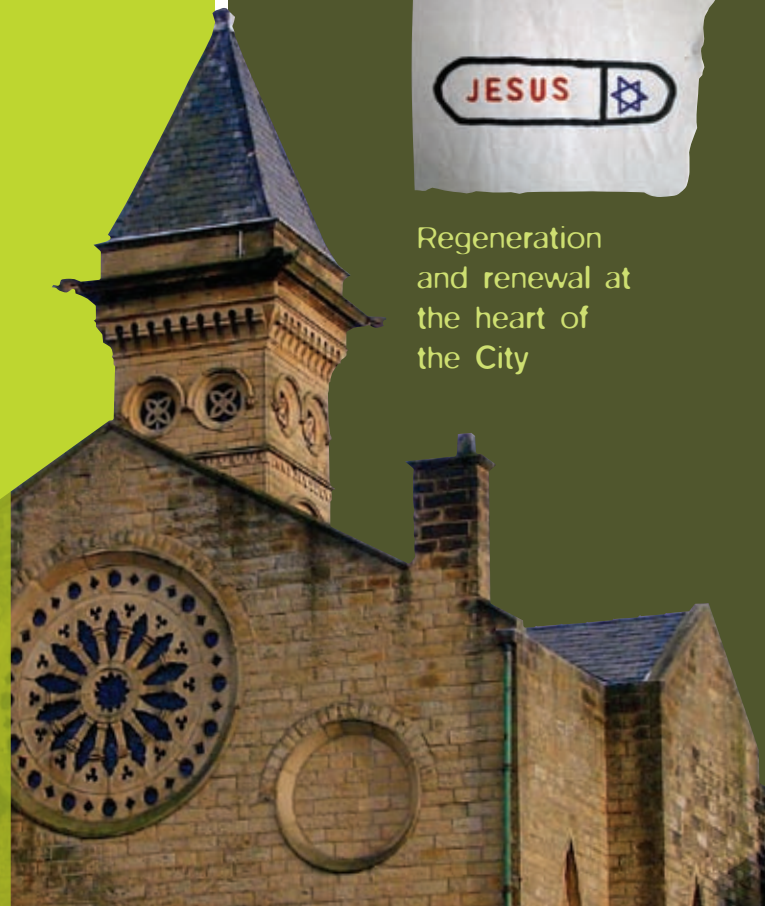
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Come over to Preston and help us

# Fishergate <sup>12</sup> Baptist Church



Regeneration and renewal at the heart of the City



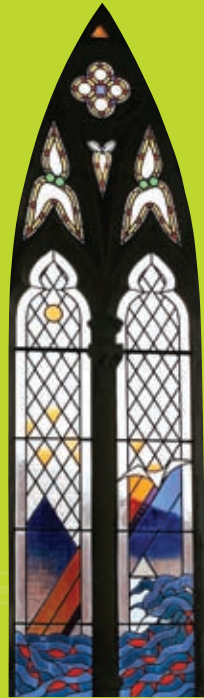
## Who we are and what we do

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Christians started meeting together as a Baptist Congregation in Preston in 1783 and we have been using our large landmark, Grade 2 Listed building in the main street of the city since 1858.

Currently our members are few in number but we continue to worship God and serve local people through a range of weekly activities. We have survived so far, despite numerous setbacks, including an IRA bomb blast in 1991, and believe God has a good plan for the future of our church.

But to move forward in renewal and mission we need help from the wider Christian family. We are asking for your prayers, and for the offer of your talents, time and treasure towards God's mission in this strategic location at the heart of England's newest city.



**Located in the main shopping centre of Preston we encounter every day the full range of urban life.**

Among those who pass through the church are many who are homeless, rootless and vulnerable. Over recent years, in partnership with other Christians and secular agencies we have developed a programme of activities to serve these people, including day and evening drop ins and youth activities. Some of them have been helped to turn their lives around, and a few have found faith in Christ. We are clear that these ministries should remain a central part of our God given vision and mission.

## Our calling and current work

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## Towards the future

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During 2007 we have spent time reviewing our work and consulting with many different people with a view to developing a sustainable future for our church. We have received encouragement from other people and from God that Fishergate Baptist Church has a unique opportunity to become a "house of prayer for all nations", "a court of the gentiles" where those far away from the church can come close to God, and a place where heaven touches earth in a practical way as we serve and empower the needy.

## Three strands for prayer and action have emerged

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**could you be one of the twelve?**

Please turn over

1. Renewal and strengthening of the Baptist congregation through the recruitment and ingrafting of a dozen committed voluntary mission workers; our "12 Disciples"
2. Sustaining and developing our ministries to homeless and vulnerable people in partnership with other bodies, and exploring new possibilities such as a youth café, or a street pastors scheme.
3. Major work on the building to provide
  - *more accessible premises,*
  - *a range of smaller spaces within the building some of which could be rented out commercially to provide income for the church's work*
  - *A flexible space for worship and prayer adapted to the needs of Christians in the 21st Century*

An architect has been commissioned to produce some outline ideas and we are working to produce a viable business plan for the project.

