

"A place of unconditional welcome, Christ-centred revival and deep discipleship, for our generation and the next, in South Croydon and beyond."



Our Vision in Action

Our vision as a church is to be a place of unconditional welcome, Christ-centred revival and deep discipleship, for our generation and the next, in South Croydon and beyond.

Everything we do - our services, our activities, our events - are all seeking to fulfil our vision. The generous support which enables all this is not just financial, but also in many other ways of sacrificial service from all across our congregation.

We asked the Ministry team, as a group who empower and enable so many volunteers, to share their own personal encouragements to help us all see and be inspired by some of the ways in which the Vision is catching light. Here are just some of the highlights, organised by theme.

Worship and Prayer

We come together on Sundays, and at other times in the week, to worship and pray to our Lord God.

"I hear so many stories of people growing in their confidence and commitment to prayer, as well as many wonderful answers to our prayers. This year, it has been a privilege to work in a team on the 24 hour prayer events. The testimonies from those who came are really inspiring. My prayer is that we continue to grow as a praying community."

"As a worship leader I believe I have the best seat in the house when we worship together! I get to see the Holy Spirit move over us as we worship and I get to see hearts desires reoriented towards Christ. Any time we worship together is special but some particularly special moments have been part of our Prayer and Worship Nights and the 24hr Days of Prayer. When we devote some time solely to the purpose of worship our sense of God's holy presence among us is somehow increased!" Stuart

Discipleship and Evangelism

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him.

“2025 has been an exciting year for women’s ministry as we have spent time in a variety of ways, building relationships across ages cultures and backgrounds. We have enjoyed small group bible studies, women’s breakfasts and the special Christmas event, as well as on-going one-to-one reading the bible together. There has been a warmth and willingness to engage spiritually with one another on a deeper level, and to share the joys and struggles of our Christian lives with one another that has been very special. It is my prayer that this continues in the year ahead as we learn more of what it means to enjoy true Christian fellowship together.” *Judith*

“My prayer is that our church is a place where people at any stage of their faith journey find a place where they can find and follow Jesus; where testimonies from those in the pews point newcomers to God; and where new homegroups, in varied style and format, continue to flourish.” *Natasha*

“It was a great joy and privilege for me to have the opportunity to direct the Christmas Eve drama this last year. I loved the opportunity to be creative and to work alongside others who I didn’t previously know well, to bring the Christmas message to all who came through the doors on Christmas Eve. I love the way God is able to use everyone’s individual gifts – we all have something to contribute and it works best when we have a shared vision.” *Julia*

“The introduction to Jesus for those who have come along to evangelistic groups has been seen in weekly commitments to our church family, baptisms, and confidence in faith: and we rejoice at these signs of spiritual new life.” *Natasha*

“I’ve been encouraged by our Rooted 20s-30s work growing, and I’m excited about growing that into a community as new people join. I’m also encouraged by our baptism service where young people stood up said “I want to follow Christ”. Preparing with them and hearing of the work of God in their lives has been brilliant! I’m looking forward this year to preparing them for a lifetime of following Jesus and knowing him from the Scriptures.” *David*

“Another highlight for me has been hearing testimonies of God’s faithfulness from those in the Ministry team and those who attend Tuesday at Two.” *Scarlett*

“As Associate Vicar one of my roles is to be involved in equipping congregation members for the ministries God has called them to. One of my biggest joys has been running a men’s discipleship group. We meet every two weeks to study a book that helps us to grow as disciples ourselves and to better equip us to disciple others. In March the group will begin working through 2 Timothy which is a great resource for what faithful ministry looks like. My prayer is that it will help each of us to be further equipped as disciple-makers and in the process to bring a blessing to the wider church family.” *Jon*

Children, Youth and Families

Our Vision is for this generation and the next, and our Childrens', Youth and Families' work is a priority.

"A big highlight for me was Mayhem. I loved singing 'King on the Cross' at Dino Mayhem this year with over 100 children. I loved hearing from parents about the brilliant time their children had at that holiday club. I'm looking forward to using the links we're building with the school to reach more children in 2026." *David*

"I like to have a quote for my ministry each year and last year (2025) was 'People over Programmes' – which meant that I wanted to invest time in the parents/people that came to all the outreach groups that I headed up, over actually running the group. It has been a joy to see these relationships develop over this year (and the past two) and this has culminated in a real answer to prayer as nine parents, from our Bumps and Babies and Toddler groups have signed up for Online Alpha. Praise God!" *Jo*

"One of the joys of children's ministry is seeing how gently and faithfully God draws children to Himself. One girl in particular stands out. She did not come from a church background and first joined us through Story Time. Over time, she became part of our First Communion group and began to develop a real love for the Bible and for prayer. During one session, when I invited the children to pray aloud, she raised her hand, began with "Dear God...", then paused and quietly said, "I don't know what to say." I encouraged her to speak from her heart, reminding her that God loves her and listens like a very good friend. Now she prays confidently during Story Time, in front of children and parents. Looking ahead, my hope is to continue nurturing spaces where children, families and volunteers can grow in confidence, discover a true friendship with God, and learn to love His Word as a living part of their daily lives." *Lizi*

Caring for others

Jesus commands us to love one another, just as he has loved us, and we have many ministries in which we are caring for others.

"It's been a great privilege to continue to oversee our Seniors ministry and pastoral care and to support those involved in our ministries to the vulnerable. I thank God for each one of you who serves in these ways."

Jon

Caring for others (continued)

“We have had guests with many unmet needs come along to the Renew Lounge. Over the weeks, they have found Christians who gained their trust, actively listened to their struggles, and developed insight into their varied passions. The Renew Lounge team is a brilliant example of how God uses each person’s gifts, feels they belongs and where it is OK not be OK and where faith-based conversations occur naturally. In the year ahead we hope to continue welcoming more people into this space.” *Carol*

Operations and Hospitality

So much of what we do is the practical “nuts and bolts” which enables ministry, and is helping us to live out our commitment to unconditional welcome.

“Christmas day lunch was such a blessing! Not only to those who came but those who served. We could not have offered lunch to those in our community if you had not joined with us. So many answered prayers – God is good! There were so many stories shared. One of the guests was in tears when they came up to get the meal. They explained that for the last few years they had been on his own and it meant so much that they could be with us, share a meal and chat. Another guest told us of how the year had not been good, and that being there with us had made the whole year: their heartfelt thanks was so touching. It was so worthwhile to do, and exactly what I believe Jesus wanted us to do.” *Sally-Ann*

“I feel blessed to play a small part in helping people prepare for big life events, whether it is baptisms, weddings or funerals.” *Julia*

“It has been a privilege to join the Ministry Team here at Emmanuel and learn about all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into the everyday workings of the church. It is great to see the Lord working through the different ministries all the way from planning to completion. As a team we have seen lots of answered prayer through church events this year.” *Scarlett*