

Ecumenical Vision Statement for Kingsthorpe Community Church, a Baptist-Methodist Partnership.

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:20-21)

In 2016 Kingsthorpe Methodist Church left its building due to health and safety issues and began jointly worshipping with Kingsthorpe Baptist Church at the neighbouring Baptist premises.

In the last eight years both of our congregations have grown in the bond of peace and Christian fellowship together and have participated in joint missional activities from the Baptist premises. Both Baptist and Methodist congregations have now prayerfully discerned that their future path involves journeying together as one united church through the formation of a single congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP).

Together we have discerned a joint vision of working together to share the gospel message in the Kingsthorpe area of Northampton. We believe that what we share in common in Christ and the Holy Spirit is more important than our differences and that the diversity of our traditions and talents enriches the body of Christ.

We believe that a single congregation local ecumenical partnership (LEP) would strengthen existing relationships and enable new ones to grow and develop. There is a strong sense, prayerfully discerned, that it is God’s will for both of our congregations to come together as a sign of visible Christian unity within the Kingsthorpe community. We believe that by working together as one church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will be enabled to more effectively offer the Gospel of Christ in both word and action to the people of Kingsthorpe and beyond.

We, the people of Kingsthorpe Community Church, therefore commit ourselves through worship, learning & caring, service, and evangelism, to contribute to God’s mission, by responding to the Gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out our discipleship by sharing the Good News of Jesus with all people in Kingsthorpe, Northamptonshire, and the whole of the inhabited Earth.

We will do this together by:

- Increasing the awareness of God's presence and celebrating God's love through worship.
- Helping people to grow and learn as Christian disciples, through mutual support and care.
- Being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice.
- Widely sharing the Good News of the Gospel and making more disciples of Jesus Christ.