



SHOWING GOD'S LOVE THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF SOUTHEND

Registered Charity No. 1180977

Love Southend – a vision

Love Southend is a relational network of Christians across the city including:

- church leaders taking up their responsibility together for the welfare of the city
- those with a passion to pray - watching over, praying for and speaking out God's heart for the city
- and kingdom influencers – individuals and ministries whose sphere of influence impacts the city or areas of its life with God's kingdom
- a network committed to serving parts of God's agenda for the city which are wider than the ministry of any one church, denomination or stream and which can only be achieved together.

This relational network is made up of those who recognise the pull of the vision in their own heart and are willing to steward and serve that vision together. We honour and respect those whose vision is focused on a particular area of Southend, and not the city as a whole; and we honour those whose heart is for the city but whose season of life or ministry means they cannot give themselves to that vision presently.

It is commitment to that vision and to relationship which draws us together, not a doctrinal statement. We will not agree about everything but choose to put seeking God's heart for Southend above our differences. We will not seek unity based on the lowest common doctrinal denominator but will respect sincerely held differences whilst not compromising our own sincerely held convictions.

We believe that:

- the relationships we forge have provided and can continue to provide, a place of mutual support, encouragement, and accountability.
- God has spoken his will and purpose for Southend in the past and continues to do so. We will seek to respond to and pursue what is recognised and received as his Word.
- corporate, city-focused prayer and worship are vital in discerning his heart and mind for Southend. They have a significant impact on the spiritual atmosphere and the coming of his kingdom to the city. Part of our serving God together will be expressed in such times.
- compassion ministries and evangelism are integral to the advancement of his kingdom in our communities. The network will seek to support and promote city-wide initiatives in these areas of ministry.

We will seek to:

- support Christians who see their sphere of influence in the city as an opportunity to see the values of God's kingdom impact that sphere.
- learn from the skill, insight and experience of those, Christian and non-Christian, who carry responsibility or influence in key areas of our city's life and welfare in order to pray for and serve Southend more effectively.

We will only initiate what our commitment to the vision, the quality of our relationships and the mix of gift and call among us make possible.

The Mission

Why does Love Southend exist? What shapes everything we are and do?

Love Southend - Showing God's love throughout the city of Southend

The Vision

What is Love Southend about? Where is our focus?

We have 3 charitable objectives:

- the relief of those in need
- the promotion of the spiritual welfare of the community
- the advancement of Christian faith

We aim through worship and prayer, influence and action, to see God's love impact every aspect of life in our city.

Love Southend – A Christian response for the wellbeing of our city.

Our Values

What we value the most

– together, to love God wholeheartedly, and our neighbour and city in the same way.

As a result, we value:

- the shared ownership of a vision to impact Southend with the goodness of God reflected by Jesus
- leadership that is increasingly Christ-like, characterised by humility and servant heartedness
- relationships of love, trust and honour between leaders within the church, deepening in friendship and mutual encouragement, characterised by a willingness to grow in openness, transparency and vulnerability
- relationships of respect and trust within the wider community which enable the values of God's kingdom to influence our city
- the effectiveness and fruitfulness of the work and influence of local churches in their community
- the increase in partnership and co-operation between congregations and Christian ministries in Southend enabling powerful works of God's grace in our communities
- the continuing maturity in faith and character of all Christians in the city, enabling them to bring positive change in their sphere of influence
- the fulfilment of God-given vision for the city
- the collaboration of people across Southend in service of the common good