

**Life Group Notes**  
**Sunday 01 October 2017**

**Speaker:** Sean Green

**Title:** Vision Sunday

Vision Sunday seeks to remind regulars and help newcomers, to have a sense of what Jesus is calling us to. Our purpose has not changed *'to be a growing Jesus centered community, bringing Gods kingdom to Reading and beyond'*. Neither has our desire to build a culture of GRACE. Yet Jesus is doing new things amongst us:

**LEADERS:** The bible teaches that local churches are led by teams of elders and deacons: Elders govern (Doctrine, Direction, Discipline, Display) and deacons implement the vision of the elders. Both are needed for healthy church life. Our elders have proposed that Mark Amos, Josh Betts and David Mosimabale join their team and that Claire John join the deacons team. The elders have asked members of RFC to evaluate these four against the criteria outlined in 1Tim3, Titus1, 1Peter5.

**RFC SOCIAL ACTION FUND:** During 24hrs away, the elders felt Jesus call them to think again about the disadvantaged in Reading by encouraging social entrepreneurship. As such a RFC Social Action Fund is being created to begin or expand projects in our town to serve the poor. To apply for a grant, you have to be a member of RFC, and applications need to be received by 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018. The maximum grant amount is £2500 per grant. see briefing below.

**A HOME:** After six years of preparing, we sense that Jesus is leading us to do all that we can to purchase the Ultima building at 448a Basingstoke Rd. We have encountered great favour with the owner who has agreed a 12-month lease to allow us time to raise the finance and get 'Change of Use'. We expect to move into the site over the weekend 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. Further details will be circulated later this week by Ian Anderson.

**NEXT STEP #1: Pray** for the proposed elders & deaconess; for God to raise up social entrepreneurs; to make a way to purchase 448a Basingstoke Rd.

**NEXT STEP #2: Give** to the Vision Fund. Gift Days this Sunday then 15<sup>th</sup> October or by making 12-month pledge.

**NEXT STEP #3: Follow** Jesus together, even into a tight spot.

## RFC Social Action Fund

The RFC Social Action Fund (RFC SAF) is a new initiative seeking to help RFCers begin and expand projects serving disadvantaged people within the communities of Reading.

There are two types of funding available:

1. **Feasibility Study:** An opportunity for those looking to begin a social action project to receive funding to help investigate the needs in their local area, how you could seek to meet those through a new project, and the impact it could have on those outside the church community. There is a maximum of £1000 available from the RFC SAF for funding for a Feasibility Study.
2. **New Project or Expansion of an Existing Project:** An opportunity for those who are about to begin or have already begun a social action project to receive funding to support the establishment or expansion of the work. There is a maximum of £2500 per grant available from the RFC SAF.

There are a number of criteria which are necessary for an application to receive funding:

- The project must seek to benefit disadvantaged individuals or groups of people who are outside the church community
- The project must be connected to RFC in some meaningful way
- **The project must be accompanied by a letter of support from either an elder or deacon for the application to be processed**
- The application must be for either a Feasibility Study for a new initiative, or to support the work of a new or expanding project
- The project must be part of a charity with a year's accounts available, details of which are to be included in the application form
- The project must provide in the application at least three outcomes which it believes the funding will help it achieve, and agree to submit a review 6 months after the funds are received showing progress towards those outcomes

In addition to this, the more details that a project can include on its application (particularly in regard to any evidence collected which shows how the project is needed and is unlike anything else being done locally, as well as clear financial details), the more likely it is to be successful.

Andy Dickens will be the point of contact for all enquiries.