Dear friends,

Following our recent networking lunch, we wanted to share an important update about the future of Churches Together Gravesham (CTG).

Over recent months, we've deliberately paused much of our usual activity to create space to pray, listen to God and reflect on what the next season might look like.

One thing hasn't changed: **our heart remains to be United to Make Jesus Known in Gravesham.** We passionately believe in the value of churches building relationships, praying together and working together to serve our communities.

However, we've also recognised that if this vision is going to flourish, some things need to change. **We believe it's time for a rebuild.**

What's changing?

Following prayer and discussion, the following changes have been agreed:

1. The CTG Executive Team structure is changing.

The current Executive Team arrangement will come to an end as we move towards a more relational and collaborative approach.

The Exec has become smaller and less representative of the breadth of churches across Gravesham. We've also recognised that having a small committee responsible for decisions and organising activities can unintentionally leave other churches as participants rather than genuine partners.

We want to move towards a movement where churches share ownership, responsibility and vision, with prayer and relationships at its heart.

A small steering group will continue to guide things through to February, helping facilitate this transition and bring churches together for the next stage.

2. Networking lunches are being paused.

Our November lunch was the last one currently planned. We won't be scheduling further lunches at this stage.

3. There will be no December prayer gathering.

Instead, we'll focus our energy on preparing for an important gathering of church leaders in February.

4. The Good Friday Walk of Witness is under review.

We value this longstanding expression of our unity and would love to see it continue. However, we currently lack the capacity to organise it as we have previously. Following February's gathering, we'll explore what might be possible for Easter 2027.

5. We'll explore a fresh identity for our network.

With the wider Churches Together in Kent structure no longer functioning as it once did, we also want to consider whether the Churches Together name and existing arrangements best serve our future. No decision has yet been made.

The next step: Monday 22 February 2027

An evening for church leaders and their teams

We're planning a significant gathering on **Monday 22 February 2027**, bringing together church leaders and two or three other key leaders from each church.

Over food, conversation and prayer, we want to listen to one another, build relationships and explore what meaningful collaboration between our churches could look like. **It's an invitation to shape the future together.**

Church leaders are vital to this. For genuine partnership to flourish, we need leaders who are willing to prioritise relationships, excited to invest in one another and champion working together.

We'll be sending out invitations with an RSVP shortly. For now, **please save the date and begin considering who you might bring.**

Looking ahead with hope

We recognise that engagement across Churches Together, particularly among church leaders, isn't what it once was. But we don't see that as a reason to abandon the vision, at all. Rather, it's an opportunity to rebuild on healthier foundations, renew relationships and make room for a new generation of leaders.

Jesus speaks in John 12:24 about a seed falling to the ground and producing much fruit. Perhaps there's something in that picture for us: sometimes we need to release familiar ways of doing things to make room for new growth.

We don't have all the answers, and we're not presenting a fully formed plan. But we remain convinced that **churches united to make Jesus known is a vision worth pursuing.**

Our hope is to build something that is relational, prayerful, fruitful and genuinely shared, where churches work together with servant hearts for the good of Gravesham and the glory of God!

So, our invitation is simple: will you join us on 22 February and help shape what comes next?

With thanks and love,

CTG Exec Team

(Quinton, Steph, Daniel, Wole, David, Luke & Kwamena)