



# Planting with Grace Church Boroughbridge

December 2018

## The Need

North Yorkshire is the largest county in England, yet one of the least evangelised. To the north and east of Boroughbridge is an area which is over five times the size of London, yet with only a handful of evangelical churches and dozens of villages with no local gospel witness.

There are three priority locations where we would particularly like to see gospel communities or churches established:

- **Easingwold.** Easingwold is a town of around 5,000 people about 12 miles north of York at the foot of the Howardian Hills. We have a couple in the town who own a café which is already creating many gospel opportunities. We also have a family in a village just outside Easingwold.
- **Catterick and Richmond.** Catterick Garrison is the British army's largest garrison with over 13,000 troops. It is adjacent to the town of Richmond which has a population of over 8,000 and Catterick village with a population of 3,000. Richmond is also the administrative centre of Richmondshire and the gateway to Swaledale. Currently Christians based at Catterick travel over half an hour up or down the A1(M) to church. Catterick and Richmond are strategic locations for reaching both the Yorkshire Dales and serving soldiers. One army family is currently attending Grace Church from Catterick Garrison.
- **Bedale.** Bedale is a town of over 3,000 people in a strategic location at the head of Wensleydale and close to RAF Leeming. We have three people attending from the Bedale area.

## The Vision

Grace Church Boroughbridge was planted around ten years ago with assistance from The Crowded House network. The church is led by two elders: Tim Chester and Marcus Gurney. We also have a full-time trainee pastor (Toby Martin) and a part-time pastoral assistant (Josh Metcalfe).

The vision of Grace Church is to see communities of light scattered across the villages and towns between the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the North York Moors National Park. We recognize it may not be possible to plant self-sustaining churches in many villages. So our vision is to see gospel work develop in four potential stages:

1. Individuals and families, who are part of Grace Church in Boroughbridge, witnessing to Christ in their villages and becoming ...
2. Gospel communities in villages whose members attend Grace Church in Boroughbridge on Sundays becoming ...
3. Gospel communities meeting each Sunday in villages which are resourced by Grace Church in Boroughbridge becoming ...
4. Self-sustaining churches with a vision for church planting.

We are happy for groups to remain at stages two or three because we recognise this may be what is appropriate in their context. But we are open to gospel communities becoming self-sustaining churches which are independent of us – we want to be open-handed.

We would like to plant churches that remain connected to us in The Crowded House network and share our DNA. But we are open to supporting the establishment of other evangelical churches.

## The Opportunity

Grace Church would like to recruit a trainee or planter to work with us long-term to reach North Yorkshire. The exact role such people might play will depend on their background and experience. But we envisage it could involve the following kind of process:

1. Serving as part of Grace Church to gain experience of rural ministry.
2. Being assessed as a church planter with Acts 29.
3. Training with Crosslands and be mentored in the context of active involvement in ministry.
4. Establishing a community of Christians in a locality that initially remains part of Grace Church, but which could in time develop into a self-sustaining church.

The trainee or planter could be part-funded by Grace Church with individuals having to raise some funding for themselves or work part-time in other employment. The funding from Grace Church is likely to be limited to three or four years depending on the amount of additional funding and church growth.

Grace Church Boroughbridge is:

- evangelical
- missional
- Reformed
- complementarian
- with a Christ-centred approach to the Bible
- and a commitment to traditional Christian sexual ethics

Our 'Who We Are' document elaborates our understanding of these terms. It can be found at [smarturl.it/gracechurch](http://smarturl.it/gracechurch). Potential recruits will need broadly to share these commitments.

If you would like to explore this opportunity then contact us at [gracechurch@thecrowdedhouse.org](mailto:gracechurch@thecrowdedhouse.org).

*Further information:*

[www.thecrowdedhouse.org/boroughbridge](http://www.thecrowdedhouse.org/boroughbridge)

[www.acts29.com](http://www.acts29.com)

[www.crosslands.training](http://www.crosslands.training)

[www.timchester.co.uk](http://www.timchester.co.uk)