

Opportunities to help you get moving!

We all want to develop our gifts and ministries so we can “declare the praises of him who called us” among neighbours, friends, families and strangers. In addition, there are plenty of church-focused opportunities below. Many roles in church require a “DBS” clearance, and team leaders get the final say on what skills they need at any time.

Outreach and community ministry

- ◇ Conversation class—Saturday morning chats with people improving their English
- ◇ Forefront Centre—volunteers needed throughout the week to listen, pray and serve
- ◇ School Bible club—reach out to a new generation with fun activities and the Bible
- ◇ Detached youth outreach and the *Rooted in the Community* youth group—if you have relevant skills, join the team!
- ◇ Prayer groups—to undergird every ministry and outreach in prayer, we seek those who can pray together in person or online at the times the work is going on
- ◇ Practical gifts—it takes a lot to keep Forefront Centre operating; could you help?
- ◇ Growing Together—our service to very young parents and their babies. Could you befriend and counsel a teen parent?

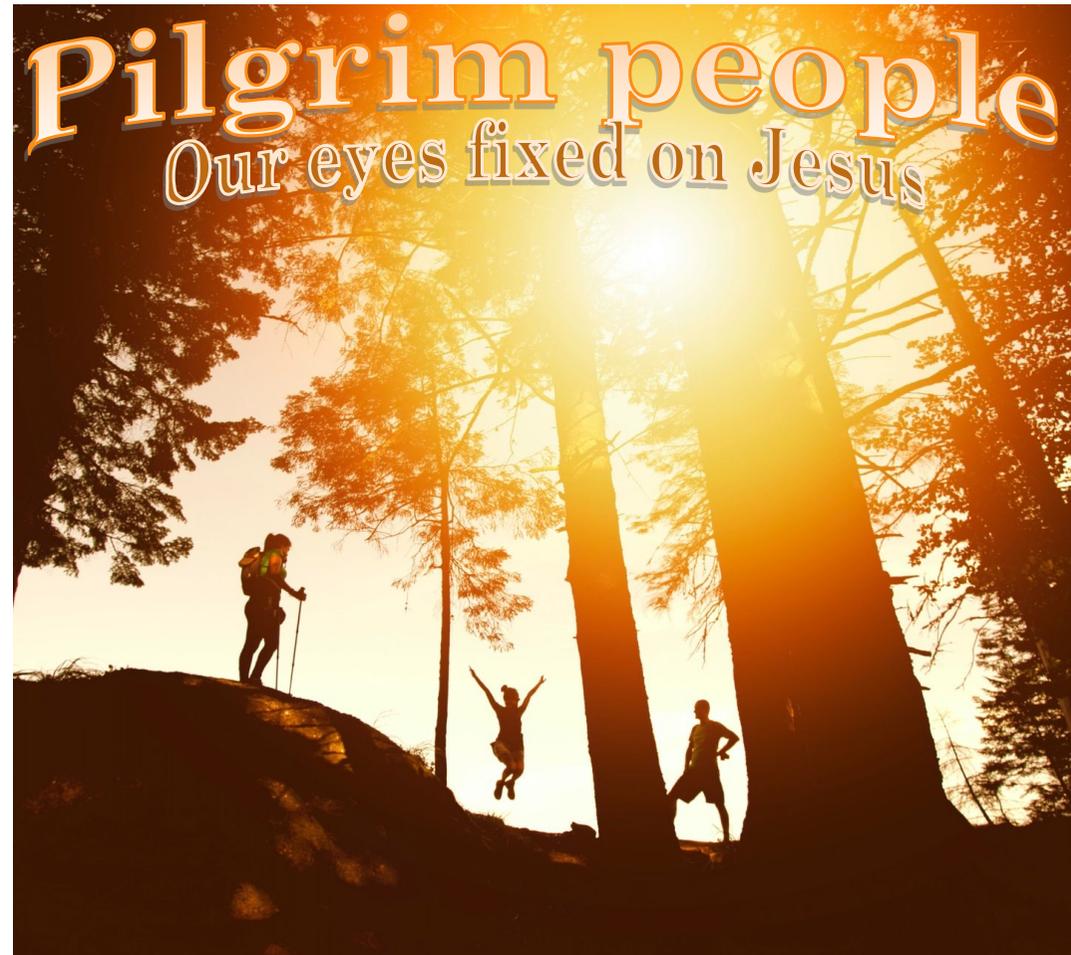
Sunday service

- ◇ Worship Team—sing or play? Help lead us into the presence of God each week
- ◇ Service leading—coordinating the different teams to help us connect with God
- ◇ Speaking—we have a diverse team and seek others who can clarify spiritual truth
- ◇ Investing in our own young people—age-appropriate teaching for all ages

A caring community with every member equipped to demonstrate Christ, working with others to advance God’s Kingdom in Chard and the world

- ◇ Technical support—sound system, projection, video production, photography, editing, website writing—if you can do it, the church can use it!

Family walking photo by [photo nic](#);
hermit crab photo by [Javardh](#),
both on [unsplash.com](#)



But you are:

- ◇ a chosen people,
- ◇ a royal priesthood,
- ◇ a holy nation,
- ◇ God’s special possession,

that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

1 Peter 2:9-11

God's people—always on the move

Seek God

Over the last two years, we have moved from the Guildhall, to online meetings, to “small-group” church in three locations, to Manor Court School, and now to Holyrood Academy. God reminds us that his people are, in real and metaphorical ways, always in motion.

We are aliens, people of light in a dark world. God purifies his holy people. He moves us so his kingdom can reach new people with Jesus's Good News of love and redemption. Whatever age we are, we should never stop moving with God.

From Abraham's itinerant life, through Moses leading the people through a desert, to Joshua invading the Promised Land, we learn that God desires to dwell with his pilgrim people—in a burning bush, a tent or a building, as required! The New Testament reveals God working through Jesus and his disciples as they moved from place to place, meeting in homes and synagogues, or on hillsides.

We thank God for a welcoming, well-equipped place to meet, but also that he is with us *wherever we are*. Worship is to throw off entangling sin, fix our eyes on Jesus, run the race set out for us and endure hardship. The final destination is never a building. The final destination is Jesus.



The first of our value statements urges us to 'seek God', and we will reinforce that, this year, with a deliberate effort to seek God by fixing our eyes on Jesus through increasing collective prayer opportunities. Following the example set by the group which prays while detached youth work takes place, we would like to see committed prayer warriors supporting all our live ministry, from Growing Together and Conversation Class, to Rooted youth meetings and schools outreach.

Love generously

We want to 'be strong and work', as we said last year. Forefront intends to simplify and focus our ministries so that everyone can lovingly and enthusiastically take part in the things we all agree are important. You'll find examples of opportunities on the back page. At the same time, we will find ways through the year to deliberately look outward—praying and taking actions that take us beyond our church, beyond our town, and into world events.

That includes renewed focus on our missionary partners, and looking for opportunities to show love and support to our local schools.

Matters arising

With all the disruption of COVID-19, some of the items from previous Vision Sundays seem prophetic (like the strange guidance to make our homes places of worship and outreach, months before the lock-down). And other items remain unfinished—like the intention to re-shape our activities to help every child and young person in Chard know a Christian, and to have heard enough of the Gospel to be able to ask questions about it.

This remains a key piece of business which we will be pursuing with renewed vigour. Schools are open, detached outreach can re-start, and we eagerly await our beloved youth worker, Rachel, back from Brazil to launch exciting new plans.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Expect transformation

Now we can meet in more pleasant surroundings with our babies, children and youth each Sunday, we look forward to renewed life and growth among them. We love having our young people with us, and we are encouraging them to take part occasionally in ministry teams during the Sunday service.

Every Christian wants to be moulded into the mind and character of Jesus. As our theme verse, 1Peter 2:9-11, says, that involves us

individually abstaining from sinful desires, and collectively seeking to live as a holy people who belong to God. Much of this discipleship work takes place in Life Groups and small prayer groups, and we will continue to encourage everyone to join one.