



Storehouse and Faith

“...and the soul felt it’s worth.”

A.Adam 1847 O Holy Night

Faith in Jesus has always been, right at the centre of Storehouse. It was the catalyst to our formation and is the source of our vision and values. For many of us, faith in Jesus sustains us through the ups and downs of all this community brings.

We have always, and will always, welcome anyone who shares our values, from other faiths or no faith background, to come and join us as we seek to create a transformative community that breaks down barriers and releases hope. We value openness and honesty, never wanting anyone to feel tricked or manipulated, so we think it’s only fair to explain the role faith plays in the life of Storehouse.

Faith in Jesus shapes the culture that exists within our Storehouse community. A faith which is not aggressive, argumentative or judgemental. A faith that does not separate, or prioritize, the spiritual from the lived realities of daily life. Instead, we seek to live out a faith that believes every individual, regardless of circumstances, to be of immeasurable value, loved by a God who delights in each one of us.

Poverty, brokenness and the chaos of this world can lead many of us into lives marked by isolation and marred by a belief that we have nothing of worth to offer. Alternatively, success and privilege can lead many of us into a flawed sense of self sufficiency and a skewed belief that we have nothing to learn. We believe that the heart of Jesus would gently and lovingly challenge all of us, wherever we find ourselves along this spectrum and draw us together towards a level ground community where all have something to bring and all have much to receive. We believe that no one should ever be viewed as a problem to be fixed or a resource to be used.

We long to see those who feel trapped in cycles and circumstances of poverty, addiction, oppression and injustice find freedom and flourishing. We recognise that can often be outside of our ability to offer, deeply complex and requires much time, care and attention. We’re here for that journey. However, what is within our control is how we treat one another, the culture we create within our Storehouse community and what we reflect to society as a whole.

When we, regardless of our background, circumstances or beliefs truly encounter the unconditional love of Jesus we can’t help but be reminded of how precious we are and that our lives have purpose. It is our deepest desire that every soul who encounters Storehouse (service user, volunteer, donor, employee, partner or friend) would experience a community that reminds them of their intrinsic worth.

Our vision of a world where inherent dignity and significance are recognised in everyone enabling them to flourish and our values of hospitality, significance and hope are drawn from the Bible, especially the life and teachings of Jesus.

Hospitality

We believe in creating safe spaces of welcome where the stranger is received as family, regardless of background or status.

Hospitality is primarily not an action as much as it is a heart posture or an attitude. It is an internal resolve to see and receive people who are currently strangers as though they were family. It's a commitment to see the whole person and not just their needs or their resources. It's an unconditional invitation both to be served and to serve alongside, in doing so creating a place of belonging for anyone who chooses to receive it. True hospitality creates safety, rest and space within which people can be at peace with themselves. It is not earned but freely offered. It's reflected in how our building looks, how our programmes are run, how we welcome people, remembering their name and holding them in mind when they aren't around.

(Matthew 25:35-40, Hebrews 13:2, Luke 10:30-36)

Significance

We believe in the unique contribution and dignity of every person. They are worthy of being treated with respect.

Despite what the world might declare, we believe a person's value isn't measured by their ability to produce. Worth is not found in educational attainment, bank balance, post code or religious affiliation. We firmly believe that every single human being was intentionally created by a loving God, wanted by God, imbued with God's characteristics and nature and made for a purpose. Everyone we lock eyes with carries, within them, something of the divine. This means that no matter of someone's background, current circumstances or beliefs they are of deep value, deserving our time, attention and care and capable of bringing something of beauty or significance to every encounter. No one's identity should ever be defined by the circumstances of their lives. Regardless of the moment we find ourselves in every one of us has the ability with our words, our actions or our attention to enrich the community as a whole.

(Genesis 1:26-21, Psalm 139:13-18, Ephesians 2:10)

Hope

We believe that positive change is always possible. We do not give up on people.

A core belief that no-one sits outside the gaze of a loving God and nothing sits beyond God's reach allows hope to always be available, despite what our hearts may currently feel and our eyes may currently see. We believe transformation is always possible, no matter the circumstances but we recognise the reality that there are rarely "quick fixes" and so we resolve to be a community that holds out hope over the long haul. We refuse to give up on anyone, knowing that a consistency of welcome and relationship, a constant invitation to community and calling out of the possible can do over a decade what seems unthinkable in a moment.

(Psalm 23, Luke 15:11-32, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)