



The Greenhouse Trust
17 Burton Road
Poole
Dorset
BH13 6DT

27th of November 2023

Dear Friends of The Greenhouse,

The Board of Trustees and I am writing to you with significant news that will impact our much-loved centre and community.

After more than 10 years of careful and prayerful consideration, we wish to inform you that the Greenhouse Christian Centre will begin relocating to a new site in late 2025, approximately 24 months from now. We will remain fully open until the Autumn of 2025, which will mark not only 70 years of ministry on the current Burton Road site but also the beginning of the next 70 years of ministry for our new location.

Despite experiencing a decade of remarkable growth, we find ourselves considerably short of the capital-finance targets necessary, to repair, refurbish, and expand the ministry of The Greenhouse in its current location. Professional building and maintenance reports have clearly explained that our current building is in need of essential, multi-million-pound repairs and improvements. Hence, we are actively working towards acquiring a new property that will be fit for purpose, capable of supporting our vision for growth on a sustainable footing for the next seven decades. Our search includes properties across Dorset, and the wider central South region.

We understand that significant change can evoke feelings of uncertainty and upheaval, so please know this decision to relocate has not been taken lightly. In alignment with our longstanding vision to provide improved facilities ensuring a solid future for The Greenhouse ministry, our team has invested considerable time in contemplating and evaluating the potential benefits and challenges associated with this move. While recognising the inevitable disruption, we approach this decision with a mix of sadness for the Burton Road era, but also profound hope for the new Greenhouse Christian Centre.

The focus of this decision is to accommodate the increased needs of our expanding ministry and provide an enhanced space for spiritual growth, fellowship, and outreach initiatives. The new property will boast modern amenities, larger grounds and room for expansion, as well as improved accessibility, all of which we believe will significantly benefit everyone who visits and engages with our Centre.

While acknowledging the disruptions that come with change, we are genuinely excited about the long-term advantages this move will bring. The new facilities will allow for a broader range of activities, programs, and services, better serving our growing community. This relocation underscores our commitment to providing an enriched and welcoming environment for worship, learning, and fellowship.

What about the current vision and the last five years of fundraising?

For the past five years, we have been actively engaged in formal fundraising efforts to restore, enhance, and develop our deteriorating building in Poole. Unfortunately, we find ourselves significantly distant from the target needed to achieve these critical goals.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to each person who has generously contributed to this fundraising initiative, irrespective of the amount. Your sacrifices are deeply honoured, and we want to assure you of our commitment to handling your gifts with the utmost integrity. As we look forward, we want to suggest two options for your consideration:

1. **Return of Gifts:** At an appropriate time, we can return each person's gift, whether in part or in full, based on your discretion.
2. **Contribution to the new Greenhouse:** Alternatively, we would love you to continue supporting our growing ministry and allocate your contribution towards the purchase and equipping of the new Greenhouse Christian Centre.

Whichever of the above options is right for you, a member of our team will be in touch with you in the New Year to talk over what you would like to do with your gifts.

More details about the vision for the new Greenhouse Christian Centre will be shared through ongoing updates over 2024, but please be assured of our commitment to the current community, guests, programs, hospitality, loving values, groups, leaders, and the Christian ethos embodied at the Burton Road site. These will not change.

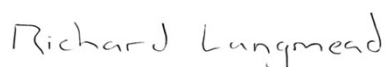
Our vision is to create an extraordinary experience at the new Greenhouse for those who already cherish our shared ministry. It will be in a new location and building but the experience and presence of God will be recognisable and familiar because He goes with us. Therefore, we warmly invite you to join us on this new and beautiful journey.

During this transition, we pledge to keep you well-informed at every step. Your support, participation, and input are invaluable as we collectively step into this new chapter for the Greenhouse Christian Centre. While it's not possible to address every question you may have in this letter, we have compiled a list of FAQs, on our website, accessible via this link: <https://the-greenhouse.org/the-greenhouse-is-moving/> Additionally, we will be hosting two open evenings at The Greenhouse Burton Road in January 2024, providing an opportunity for you to attend, ask questions, and engage directly with the Board of Trustees

Lastly, I want to make it crystal clear that this decision was a Board decision, and all questions about the decision should be directed to me rather than Mark Strand or his staff team. They have been incredible leaders, and we deeply honour them all, and wish to make it plain, that the Board took this significant decision as part of their overall responsibility for the Greenhouse ministry. For direct communication, please write to me at The Greenhouse Christian Centre or reach out to me at Richard.langmead@the-greenhouse.org Your understanding, patience, and continued commitment to our shared ministry vision are deeply appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or thoughts regarding this significant change.

We are profoundly grateful for your ongoing support and eagerly anticipate embarking on this exciting new journey with each and every one of you.

Yours in Faith,



Richard Langmead - Chair of Trustees