

groundlevel
network

Advancing the kingdom everywhere



Family Handbook

information for church leaders

published
april 2023

Welcome

Welcome to the Ground Level Family Handbook!

We are so excited to be united with you on the mission of Jesus to advance the Kingdom of God everywhere. In every place geographically and every sphere and strata socially. Our heart is to equip and empower local churches to fulfil the unique calling that God has placed within them and together to see our nation influenced for good.

In this handbook we share our vision, our mission and our values. These are so important to us, and everything that we do continues to revolve around our core values of: Relationship, Partnership, Resourcing and Word & Spirit.

We are also highlighting here what we are calling our ECO System. This is a portfolio of ministries and services that allow us to achieve the stated aims for our mission, Creating Healthy Churches, Developing Great Leaders and Equipping God's People. The ECO System is made up of things that we already do, along with our partnerships and some developing plans.

We are excited to see all that God will do as our future unfolds and we walk this journey together.

It's exciting to include some personal stories from people who share what Ground Level means to them and their churches.

All our love, together for the Kingdom!

paul & jeannie benger
network leaders



Who we are

Ground Level is a movement of churches and our vision is advancing the Kingdom of God everywhere. We believe that through relationship, unity and partnership we can see the Kingdom of God advance in our world.

We love and believe in the local church and exist as a family of churches to empower, support, strengthen and care for the church, its leaders and its ministries. We are a prophetic voice characterised by our strong commitment to the work of the Spirit and the Word of God.

We would love for you to join us in this mission and for us to partner together to see God's Kingdom advance in our time.

advancing the
kingdom everywhere

relationship

partnership

resourcing

word & spirit

What we do

Our mission as a family of churches is threefold:

We want to create healthy churches that become life giving communities in their locality.

We want to develop great leaders who can wisely lead in all spheres of life in a relevant and empowering way.

And we want to equip God's people to bring transformation to their communities and the world around them.

creating healthy churches

developing great leaders

equipping God's people

Our eco-system shows the network in its length and breadth, the ways we interact, our activities and how we deliver our mission.

Our eco-system



Relationships

connections

Connections exist as our primary connecting point with leaders within the Network. Within our connections Pastors are proactively cared for, links to the network are maintained and developed - including connection with other arms of our ecosystem, and Connection Leaders provide personal apostolic leadership into churches - facilitating growth and strengthening them.

Our connections have four key priorities:

Care

for both the church and its leadership.

Health

Maintaining relationships and accountability.

Support

Providing or signposting to extra support as needed.

Development

Enabling churches to step into their own individual vision.

long lunches


Our network operates over a large geographical area and we recognise that not everyone will be able to attend every in-person event.

Long Lunches serve as a roaming regional event to connect within individual geographies and aren't just for Ground Level Churches but seek to serve the local area.

The lunches include time for relationship and conversation as well as a short inspirational leadership thought. Check out our website for upcoming lunches near you, or contact the office if you would like to host one at your church

It is clear to us that God is doing something regionally across our nation and we look forward to playing our part.

Equipping



"Being part of Ground Level is very much part of who we are at Springs: we have been part of the family for the 21 years of the Church's life. My memories of the network go further back: to the tender age of 15 when I first experienced a large Christian event at Grapevine. Little did I know that over 30 years later I would be leading a Fellowship not too far down the road!

Because my call to being a Pastor was a little unusual 5 years ago, I felt uneasy about the change. Fortunately, the Network's Leadership Engine was beginning its first year and I valued this support, knowledge and encouragement at the time. When leaders prayed over me at the end of the course I felt better equipped to serve and felt part of the family. That experience is repeated every time I join with the wider network of leaders, and this really does me good.

It is strange being a Pastor of a small church. You're often surrounded by your own church family in a wonderful and close-knit way. Yet at times it is a lonely role when things get tough or key decisions are to be made. That's when Ground Level support is invaluable. We have received encouraging words of knowledge, help with practical tasks, as well as challenge to go out and do that which God has asked of us"

kate hills
springs church

leadership engine

The vision for our Leadership Engine course is to see new & existing leaders equipped & released to serve God & His Kingdom:

- Sound in their theology,
- Strong in their character,
- Secure in their gifting;
- Stepping into their missional purpose.

influence

The Kingdom of God isn't exclusive to inside the 4 walls of our church buildings, and through our influence objective we're seeking to inspire people to be influential wherever God has placed them, in all spheres of life.

Through teaching, inspiration and online content we're seeking to inspire our church communities to see their work as their mission field and their Monday to Friday as their Ministry.

theology forum

Our theology forum exists to equip churches in handling theological issues. Our forum periodically meets to discuss a particular topic, which is then presented to the network through an event or resource.

Leadership Training



tuesday leaders gatherings

Each month we host a day for leaders to gather for worship, prayer, ministry, updates and to share lunch together. These days are sometimes referred to as 'Church for Church Leaders' and provide a regular meeting point where leaders can receive input and connection.

We usually invite a national speaker to join us and bring input, training and inspiration. These events are hosted in Lincoln but are also available via a zoom feed for those unable to attend in-person.



leaders national forum

Every quarter we gather senior leaders from our connecting churches to spend a day learning and growing together. These days focus around a specific topic with plenty of opportunities for discussion and learning from each other.

National Forums are designed to be relevant and collaborative, focusing on challenges facing churches today and allowing space for us to journey to answers together in an informal setting.

Events

leaders conference

The Ground Level Leaders Conference is our annual gathering to connect, be inspired and hear what the Holy Spirit is saying, so we can follow his lead. It is a time to renew relationships, build new ones and a time to be refreshed. It's for pastors, leaders, staff team members, key volunteers, as well as emerging and younger leaders. Our speakers will include invited guests, friends and leaders from within our network.

Through a programme of Keynotes, Discussions, Celebrations and Co Labs, which will take a dive into leadership subjects and practices, we know that this conference will be a rich time of impartation from the Holy Spirit.

A highlight of our conference is always the space that we make for friendship and connection which remains a priority for future events.

awaken

Awaken is our flagship event of the year, gathering together all of our churches for a time of celebration, Awaken is about being together, going deeper in our faith, and enjoying the gift of life.

The event will include everything there is to love about a summer gathering, with dynamic worship, inspirational teaching, encounters with the Holy Spirit and opportunities to go deeper in our faith. All alongside great kids and youth programmes, activities for the whole family and space to be together in church community. We're excited to step into all that God has for us and hope that you can join us.



www.groundlevel.org.uk
/leaders-conference

Leadership Care & Development



coaching

Ground Level work with a team of coaches who are able to offer free introductory sessions to Network members.

Coaching is designed to engage you in a thought-provoking and creative process that inspires you to maximise your personal and professional potential. The process of coaching often unlocks previously untapped sources of imagination, productivity and leadership.

We all have goals we want to reach, challenges we're striving to overcome and times when we feel stuck. Partnering with a coach can change your life, leading you to greater personal and professional fulfilment.

wellbeing

Ground Level recognise that Leadership wellbeing is vitally important so we've teamed up with some trusted counsellors and therapists who are able to support you in this area. This team are able to offer free assessments to those in the Network, advice and direction for those dealing with mental health challenges in their congregations and training for Leaders and Teams.

"Becoming part of the Ground Level Network has been a huge blessing, both for me personally and for us as church. It really has filled a hole. It's not like things were all 'bad'. Not at all! We had much to be thankful for, it's just we felt things could be 'better'.

We had come to a place where we realised there were some things we were missing... Output levels for us (as often is the case for so many Leadership teams) were running high in our own local setting, far exceeding any input we were receiving, we felt a little isolated, even dare I say, a bit lonely. Things were out of balance. We needed some input, where we could just come and receive, and in doing so, be filled up and built up, inspired, encouraged and cheered on. We really feel we've found it now!

Within Ground Level we've found connection beyond just our own context, people who we could just chat to, enjoy being with, pick up a phone if we need to, turn to for some advice, find some support, people who may even help us to think or see things differently.

I really am a big believer that the best stuff is relational, and it's been such a joy getting to know so many people who have become genuine friends and a real blessing to us, and we are still making more friends to this day.

Let me just say; for me, for our Leadership Team, for us as a church, we are better, healthier and happier, as a result of becoming part of the Ground Level family."

darryl mallet
king's centre church



Compliance

governance & structural competency

We're passionate about creating healthy churches, and as part of that mission we think it's vital to foster good governance, leadership and operational structures in churches.

We can help provide support, training and signposting for churches who would like advice in this area.

resources & signposting

We've curated a variety of resources and best-practice tips from some industry experts, these are all people we work with and trust, who are only a phone call away for any support and guidance you may need.

services

As a Network we provide a range of services to support churches, these include Leader Accreditation and access to DBS Checks.



www.groundlevel.org.uk/resources

thirtyone:eight

Independent and thought-leading, thirtyone:eight equip organisations, churches, other faith groups, individuals and government with the safeguarding tools they need to protect vulnerable people.

stewardship

Stewardship is a community of generous people uniting to use all God has given them to love Him, love one another, and love their neighbours as themselves.

Stewardship are able to resource churches practically with their financial needs, alongside providing consultancy services, pay-rolling and resources on best practice.

kingdom bank

With nearly seven decades of experience serving the UK Church, Kingdom Bank has a rich heritage of providing churches with financial solutions to support their ministry and mission.

Kingdom Bank are able to provide churches with facilities for savings and borrowing as well as church insurance.

trusted hr

Trusted HR provide Human Resources support and consultancy services to organisations across the UK, with a wealth of experience in Church HR they are able to support Churches with their unique needs

Partners

links

Links mission is to confront poverty and create potential by working with partners around the world – to provide sustainable solutions for lasting change.

the message trust

The Message Trust is a worldwide movement passionately sharing the love of Jesus Christ in words and actions with the hardest-to-reach young people and communities.

betel

Betel UK is an independent Christian charity for men, women and families affected by drug and alcohol addiction and homelessness. Through work, well-being and worship, they restore broken lives.

Ground Level are delighted to support Betel in their mission.

tearfund

Tearfund exists to see people freed from poverty, living transformed lives, and fulfilling their God-given potential through meeting emergency needs, mobilising churches, transforming communities and changing society.

Ground Level are delighted to partner with Tearfund in our response to these issues through prayer & action. We also direct churches wanting to financially support emergency responses to give to Tearfunds appeals.

"Having been personally connected for over 30 years, Ground Level is an integral part of my Christian journey. As a church leader I have received much from the network. Wisdom, support, training and numerous lasting friendships. I also believe by investing back into Ground Level I have been greatly blessed by its ministry.

As a church, we at Powerhouse Doncaster have felt the security of oversight and accountability. This has allowed us to grow within a safe environment with the resources that Ground Level brings to us.

I would say that the connection we have is vital on our spiritual journey both personally and corporately. May we continue to grow together on this exciting journey."

richard tucker
power house church





Team Development

team development

There is huge strength found in collaboration, sharing ideas and cheering each other on. That doesn't stop at our support for the church leader but is provided by our Team Connections to support all aspects of church life.

These groups allow Leaders in different capacities and ministries to connect with each other for mutual benefit and support.

We are currently developing team connections for:

- Worship Pastors/Leaders
- Assistant Pastors
- Youth Ministry Leaders
- Kids Ministry Leaders
- Administration, Management and Executive Staff/Volunteers
- Bi-Vocational Leaders
- Community/Social Action

If you'd like to connect with one of these groups please get in touch.

future generations

As part of our team development investment into the future generations remains a priority for us.

We see a movement that positively engages children, young people and young adults, impacting and influencing their lives in such a way they become the leaders who are impacting and influencing our world.

We achieve this by actively working together to build the ministries to these generations, offering advice, mentoring and support for leaders alongside providing great programmes at our events to inspire and energise the next generation.

Find out more

If you would like any further information about Ground Level or you are interested in joining the network and would like to know more please head to our website or email our office directly

If you are already part of the Network and want to know how to access any of the services or resources described in this booklet please contact your connection leader or email the office.

groundlevel.org.uk
admin@groundlevel.org.uk

Support us

Right from the start, the Ground Level Network has been built upon the grassroots generous support of individuals and churches, both financially and in prayer.

If you would like to support Ground Level then please head to our website or scan the QR code below.

We are grateful for your support and thank you for standing with us!



SCAN ME

[groundlevel.org.uk/
support-us](http://groundlevel.org.uk/support-us)

advancing the
kingdom everywhere



creating healthy churches

developing great leaders

equipping God's people

groundlevel.org.uk

22 Newland,
Lincoln,
LN1 1XD

admin@groundlevel.org.uk
01522 217556

Copyright 2023 Ground Level Ministry Team Ltd

Ground Level is a company limited by guarantee having no share capital.
Registered in England No. 2425628. Registered as a charity No. 1001599.
Registered for VAT No. 613876329