

## City of Hope Outreach 2026

Dear Church Leader,

It seems that not a day goes by without some public acknowledgement that there is a change in the spiritual climate across the developed world. Young people are reacting against their parents' agnosticism and are looking for answers in a personal relationship with Jesus.

The recent *Quiet Revival* report from the Bible Society indicates that a third of young people accept the existence of God and 34% of 18–24-year-old non-churchgoers would attend church if invited by a friend. There are 92,000 under 18s in Bristol and it feels to many of us that this is the time for the Church in Bristol to step out in faith and reach out to this generation so loved by the Father.

Since April, a group of us have been meeting and praying about the possibility of a **city-wide outreach event** in the heart of Bristol. We have now received **provisional permission** from the council to use the **Canon's Marsh Amphitheatre** during the final week of **May 2026**, in partnership with **Together4Bristol**.



Below is a proposal for the event that we would ask that you prayerfully consider supporting.

### Hope for the City – May 2026

**Dates:** Sunday 24th – Thursday 28th May 2026

Our vision is to offer the **Canon's Marsh Amphitheatre** for the **Together4Bristol Pentecost** gathering on **Sunday 24th May**, marking the start of a **week of outreach**.

The council has provisionally approved the venue for **public gospel events on Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th, and Thursday 28th May**.

These events will provide opportunities for the Church in Bristol to proclaim the lordship of Christ through worship, testimony, gospel presentation, intercession, and perhaps even open-air baptisms — all leading to moments where people can be counselled and prayed for.

## Finances and Next Steps

An event of this scale will require significant financial investment. We currently anticipate a **budget of £60,000–£99,000**. Charities and trusts are far more likely to contribute if we can demonstrate **financial pledges from local churches**.

While next spring may seem distant, the lead-in for awareness, prayer, training, and preparation will take several months.

### Proposed Timeline:

- **Now:** Churches save the date
- **Oct–Nov 2025:** Churches submit financial support pledges
- **December 2025:** Applications to grant-making bodies (to match church pledges)
- **January 2026:** Prayer and training events begin; publicity produced
- **March 2026:** Volunteer teams formed and trained
- **May 2026:** *Hope for the City* outreach events

Please contact us at **bristolhope26@gmail.com** with your responses and pledges. We ask that you prayerfully consider, together with your trustees, the level of support your church can commit to this vision.

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### Steering Group Members:

Frazer Welch (Victoria Park Baptist Church), James Lee (City Church), Julia Loveless (Worship Leader), Maki Miço (Cairns Road Baptist Church), Mark Detzler (Broadmead Baptist Church), Mark Jefferies (Counterslip Baptist Church), Mike Cain (Emmanuel Bristol), Neil Todman (Philip Street Chapel), Nick Harrison (Hillfields Church), Nigel Coles (ex-Regional Team Leader Webnet), Oli Porter (Evangelist), Richard Rycroft (Hillfields Church), Raymond Veira (Presiding Bishop for the South and Wales of the Church of God of Prophecy), Sarah Bristow (Broadmead Baptist Church), Tim Dobson (Woodlands Christian Fellowship), Tundun Adebajo (Youth Pastor, God's House International Centre), Wayne Massey (B&A Bristol), Andy Street (Christian Action)

Any of the above would be happy to answer questions from church leaders. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

With every blessing,

**Mark Detzler**

*On behalf of the Bristol Hope 2026 Steering Group*

## FAQs

### What do we need to do right away?

Please save the date and share this vision with your church. Prayerfully make a **financial pledge**, which will not be collected until the end of this year.

### Will there be training?

Yes. A **10-week evangelism video course** — *Living & Telling* by **Agape UK** — is available **free of charge**: <https://agape.org.uk/living-and-telling/>.

Martin Riddell from our steering group can provide support for this training.

### Is there a shared statement of faith?

Yes. To ensure clarity in the gospel, we unite around the **Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith**.