

# WORSHIP 101





# Introduction

Welcome to worship 101.

Our aim is to give you a taste of Vineyard worship - our values and what to expect from being part of Taunton Vineyard worship community, including how we approach our corporate worship times, what our vision and current aims are, as well as how we hope you can engage further in the life of our worship community.

“Come let us bow down in worship let us kneel before the Lord our maker; for he is our God.”  
*Psalm 95:6-7*

We hope you enjoy this short course.

*Phil & Michelle*

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*‘As they sang songs to God, and not just about Him, they made room for His Spirit to move among them.’*



# Who are the Vineyard?

## *A brief History of the Vineyard*

The Vineyard movement is at its very roots, a worship movement. It was essentially born in desperation. A small gathering of worn-out leaders began to spend time worshipping and praying together in a living room in Yorba Linda, California. John and Carol Wimber were a part of this group. As they sang songs to God, and not just about Him, they made room for His Spirit to move among them. God's Kingdom began to break in among them in powerful and miraculous ways.

John Wimber and his own congregation experienced God in profound ways through times of intimate and honest worship. The songs were written 'to God,' as opposed to just 'about God.' There was no hype, no charismatic worship leader trying to stir up the emotions of the crowd – just simple, honest worshipping.

Other movements, such as New Wine, Jesus Culture and Soul Survivor, attribute their beginnings to the influences of John Wimber and the Vineyard.



# Our story

We met at South West London Vineyard Church (SWLV) in 1998. One of the first areas of ministry where we crossed paths was in leading worship on the streets of Central London whilst feeding the homeless. Married in June 2003, we moved with our 2 children, Jemima (11) and Daniel (8), from South West London to Taunton in August 2007. We felt called to this corner of the UK and it's still very much 'home'.

**We have been involved with Vineyard worship at both a national and local level since the early 1990's.**

We have led worship in numerous settings from housegroups to conferences, with orphaned children in Ecuador, the poor in South Africa, concerts in Germany, Switzerland and Ireland.



## *Michelle*

I have been involved in leading worship since 1986 and was mentored by international worship leader and songwriter Brian Doerksen while he was pastoring the worship at SWLV (1997-1999). I had the privilege of singing backing vocals and assisting with the vocal arrangements on a variety of Vineyard albums including 'Intimacy' (1998), 'Hungry' (1999) and 'Surrender' (2000). As well as recordings for VRUK I have sung on live worship recordings for New Wine (2004, 2005, 2007 & 2013), Kathryn Scott ('Satisfy' 2002) and I have written and recorded my own album 'Secret Place' (2012), donating the proceeds to support women and children rescued from human trafficking.

## *Phil*

Vineyard worship was one of the driving forces behind me joining the church back in 1995. I became musically involved with Vineyard worship by leading in a small group context for over a decade. My experience in this setting has proven to be helpful in leading worship in larger forums.



*'My first encounter with  
Vineyard Worship was  
hearing a tape  
of thier  
songs,  
which  
touched  
me in a  
profound  
way.'*

# *Why do we worship?*

We are created to worship and we have an innate desire to give ourselves to someone or something. We worship God

because He's worthy! If we don't worship Him, we'll worship something or someone else.

*'When we gather to worship we see it as a time of encounter, of refreshing and of empowering in the presence of God.'*





## *Worship as a lifestyle*

### ***Our highest priority***

'We in the Vineyard from the very outset of our ministry, made worship our highest priority, believing that it is God's desire that we become, first, worshippers of God'

*John Wimber*

**Worship is a living act that encompasses all of our lives offered to God in complete and utter surrender.**

While we highly value our corporate worship times, we believe that our lives are to be spent in a constant and continuous encounter with Jesus. Worship is not just what we do for an hour on Sundays; it is a lifestyle.

**"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering."**

*Romans 12:1-2, The Message*

# *Our worship values*

We, as an international Vineyard movement, share common worship values, and remain committed to creating spaces for people to worship God that are:

- 1) Intimate
- 2) Accessible
- 3) Full of Integrity
- 4) Guided by Kingdom Expectation
- 5) Passionate

Just as a lime slice changes the taste of water, each expression or movement of the Church has a unique twist – defined by its history, preferences, demographic and leadership. These core values help to define the character of worship at Taunton Vineyard.

## ***1) We value intimacy in worship***

What is Intimacy in worship? Intimacy, in any relationship, does not just happen when the lights are low and the music soft. Intimacy can be loud and celebrative. Intimacy is a posture, a positioning, of one heart towards another. Intimacy happens when one heart chooses to make itself vulnerable to another.

You'll notice, in many of the songs that we sing in the Vineyard, that the lyrics of the songs are speaking directly to God and inviting an exchange with Him. For example, one of our popular 'intimate' songs at Taunton Vineyard is 'I Love Your Presence.' This expression of intimacy is an essential part of our corporate worship times and often leads to meaningful and rich encounters with Him, filled with an expectation of God's presence as he speaks back to us. Often during these 'visitation' times people will cry, sing in the spirit, kneel down, lift up their hands or come forward to share an encouraging spirit filled word, picture, a 'word of knowledge' or impression for healing.

If intimacy in the 'narrow' sense means we sing to God, then in the broad sense, intimacy means we live our whole lives in the presence of God. When we embrace intimacy in worship, we are fulfilling our destiny to be in an interactive daily relationship with our amazing God - carrying His presence into all of our lives.



*‘...to beautifully  
create a musical  
space for people  
to meet **with**  
God.’*

## **2) We value accessibility**

At Taunton Vineyard we want to create as many environments as possible where people can worship God and encounter His life-changing presence.

**In our worship environments we seek to create an open path for every person, of every age and background, to meet with God. For example, when a wheelchair ramp appears at the entrance of a corporate building, we immediately know what that business is trying to do. It is making itself accessible to those who may otherwise have trouble entering.**

Our songs are often simple, and very melodic, as we are trying to

make a way for everyone gathered in a room to find their way to God through the songs we sing. Our musical goal is not to impress people with the capabilities of the band, or worse yet, with the capabilities of an individual, but rather to beautifully create a musical space for people to meet with God.

**We have one goal ever before us as a team. We are playing so that the congregation might find a clear way to lay down the burdens they walked in with at the feet of Jesus, and to meet with Him in worship through the vehicle of the music that we make. We use all our musical giftings to get out of the way, and to make a way, for people to get to that place of encounter.**

### ***3) We value integrity in worship***

People may not be able to put their finger on it, but they somehow intuitively know if a worship leader, or any leader for that matter, is leading out of the integrity of their secret life with God.

In other words, when people sense that the 'worship show' is all about the leader and the musicians, and is less about the congregation meeting with God, they will just sense a hollowness in the corporate worship experience over time. For example, we can't sing songs about pursuing God with any integrity if we are not actively pursuing Him in our own lives. We cannot sing songs that move us to care for the poor, if we in our own lives are not actively questing to care for the poor.

### ***4) We value Kingdom Expectation***

When we gather to worship, we expect every time that each individual, as well as our corporate community, will have an intimate exchange with God as we encounter His life-

changing presence. We expect His Kingdom to break in at any and every moment, as He heals, delivers and transforms us as broken people.

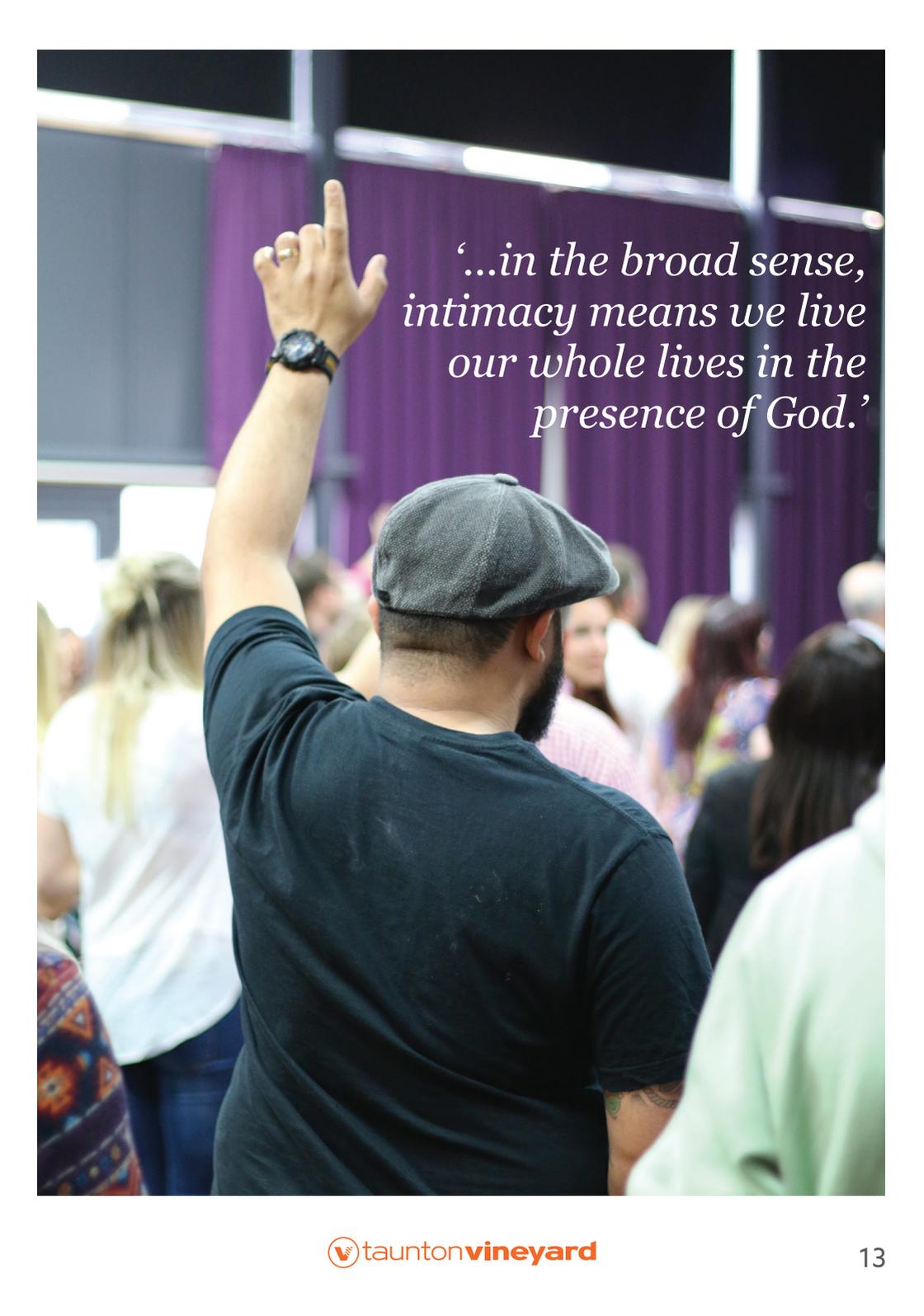
So too, in our Vineyard worship expression, we never want to lose the dynamic of creating worship settings that have plenty of "space," both musically and spiritually, for God to interact with His people. For us, worship is not about a shining worship leader and a killer band - it's about serving God and people by making a way for us all to meet with Him.

### ***5) We value passion in worship***

The final value is all about the heart and how we authentically respond to who God is. Passion can't be faked or manufactured. God knows the true state of our hearts and whether our words and actions match up.

So, passion sits along integrity and it is our desire to express our genuine feelings for God in ways that connect our heart with our voice and posture.



A photograph of a man from behind, wearing a dark t-shirt and a grey flat cap. He has his right hand raised, with his index finger pointing upwards. He is wearing a black watch on his left wrist and a ring on his right hand. The background shows a church interior with purple curtains and other people.

*‘...in the broad sense,  
intimacy means we live  
our whole lives in the  
presence of God.’*

# Experiencing God's presence

People come to a time of worship saying in the quiet of their hearts what the psalmist said, "Where and when can I go and meet with God?" The worship leader responds, "How about here? How about now?" and leads them to that place of meeting. As a worship community, when we select, practice, prepare and perform songs in the tapestry that we call a 'worship set,' we are literally creating a 'place' for people to encounter God, often leading us to a visitation of His presence and power.

We've found some consistent trademarks of a worship set that lead us into His life-changing presence. These are known as 'Phases of the Heart,' or basic phases that exist in worship. Understanding these phases is helpful to explain the principles of how we commune with Him and experience His presence during our times of corporate worship.



## **1) Give an invitation to God's people to worship.**

The beginning of any worship set should be something that will set a tone, letting the congregation know where things are heading with worship that day.

An idyllic first phase invites people to worship without pushing them in, allowing everyone to come into His presence at their own pace. Often people find it difficult to just leap headfirst into intense worship, e.g. they've just walked across from the car park in the pouring rain. So, starting a set off with songs that invite people to come into His presence and give our congregation a clear idea of where things are heading, can be one of the best ways to begin a worship set.

## **2) Sing songs of declaration**

Once the congregation has been given the opportunity to come into His presence in their own way and time, the worship team can start to declare and praise our

wonderful God.

Generally, songs in the second phase should be well known so that everyone can access them. This is a time to really start communing with God, declaring His character and recognizing His goodness.

### ***3) Respond to God's love and goodness***

Once the majority of our congregation is reaching a level of intimacy with God it's time to start responding to what He is doing and becoming intimate with Him; something He deeply desires.

Intimacy with God is an essential part of worshipping, as intimacy leads to meaningful and rich encounters with Him. Intimacy can be a powerful moment where you come alive through experiencing God's presence. Choose songs that sing to God in the first person. As we speak to Him, He speaks

back to us and reveals His love and goodness to us.

### ***4) Visitation***

**The final step is all about Him. You've invited God and everyone has recognized His presence - you've praised Him.**

Now it's time to listen and see what the Holy Spirit wants to do. Allow space for God to visit and speak to us. This could be through silence, it could be a break in the lyrics for a while, it could be purposeful transitions, it could be selecting a song that actually allows this space. There are no rules here!

Visitation is wonderful because it's all about God showing up. His presence provides hope, love, healing, encouragement and transformation. He literally walks into our environments and makes Himself known.

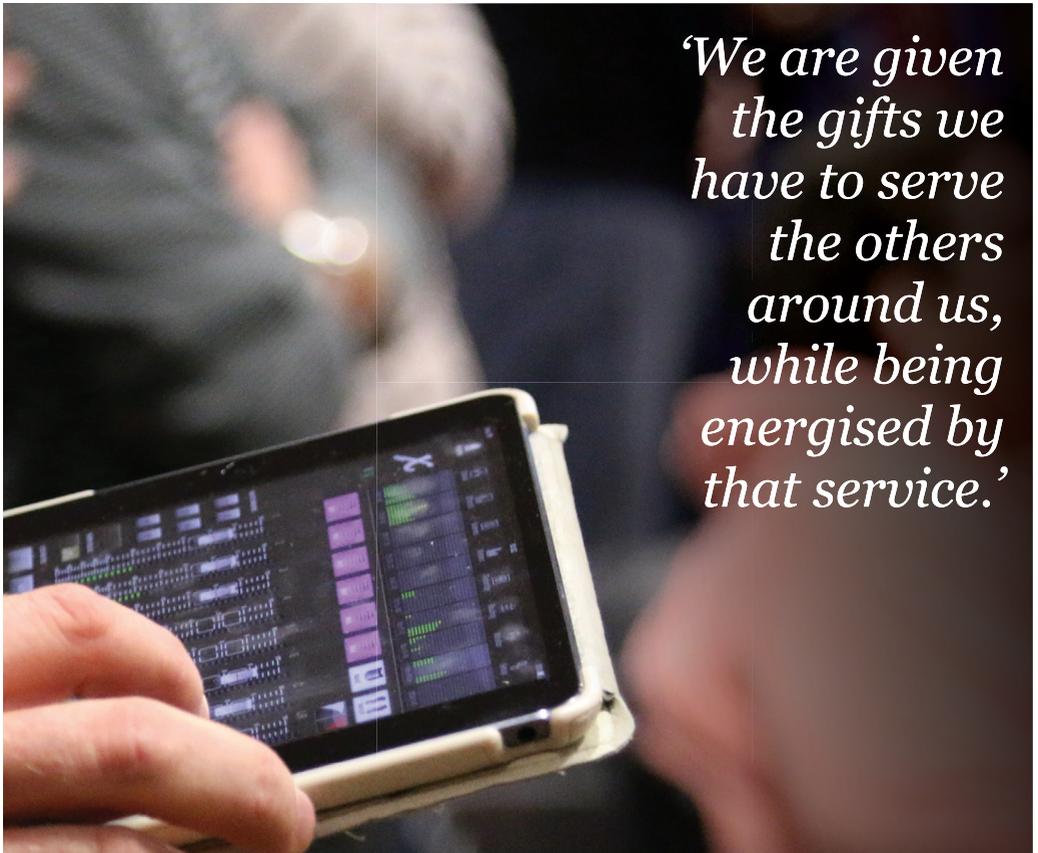


# *Worship vision*

As worship leaders, we aim to create a safe place where our congregation can meet with God, predominantly in song. Whether in small groups or at the larger Sunday meetings, our sense, over this next year, is that God desires greater intimacy with us.

We recognise that people will come experiencing all manner

of situations, emotionally. We aim to provide a space for the congregation or small group to be able to express their hearts to Him whether this means joy or sadness, or anything in between. As we invite His Spirit to inhabit every aspect of our lives. He calls us to 'come as we are' that we would go away changed by His presence.



*'We are given  
the gifts we  
have to serve  
the others  
around us,  
while being  
energised by  
that service.'*

# *Serving in the church*

Serving, loving and leading in a local church is where we learn to be givers instead of takers. As 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV) says,

**“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”**

We are given gifts and callings not for the service of our own visibility or personal sense of fulfillment – we are given the gifts we have to serve the others around us, while being energised by that service.

This town needs worship leaders, musicians, worship technicians and artists who are passionate about worshipping Jesus and carrying His presence into all of life.

**We want to give away to others in terms of what God has given to us in worship. This involves identifying, training and releasing new worship leaders, musicians, vocalists, etc. As the church continues to grow, we will need more worship leaders, PA technicians etc.**

In no particular order, here are some of the areas you might want to consider:

- Chamberlain's Worship.
- Children's & Youth Worship.
- Songwriting.
- Visual and media Support.
- Sunday main service worship.
- Housegroup worship.
- Audio Visual Support - projector set up.
- PA - mixing and setting up and down.

## ***Worship Training***

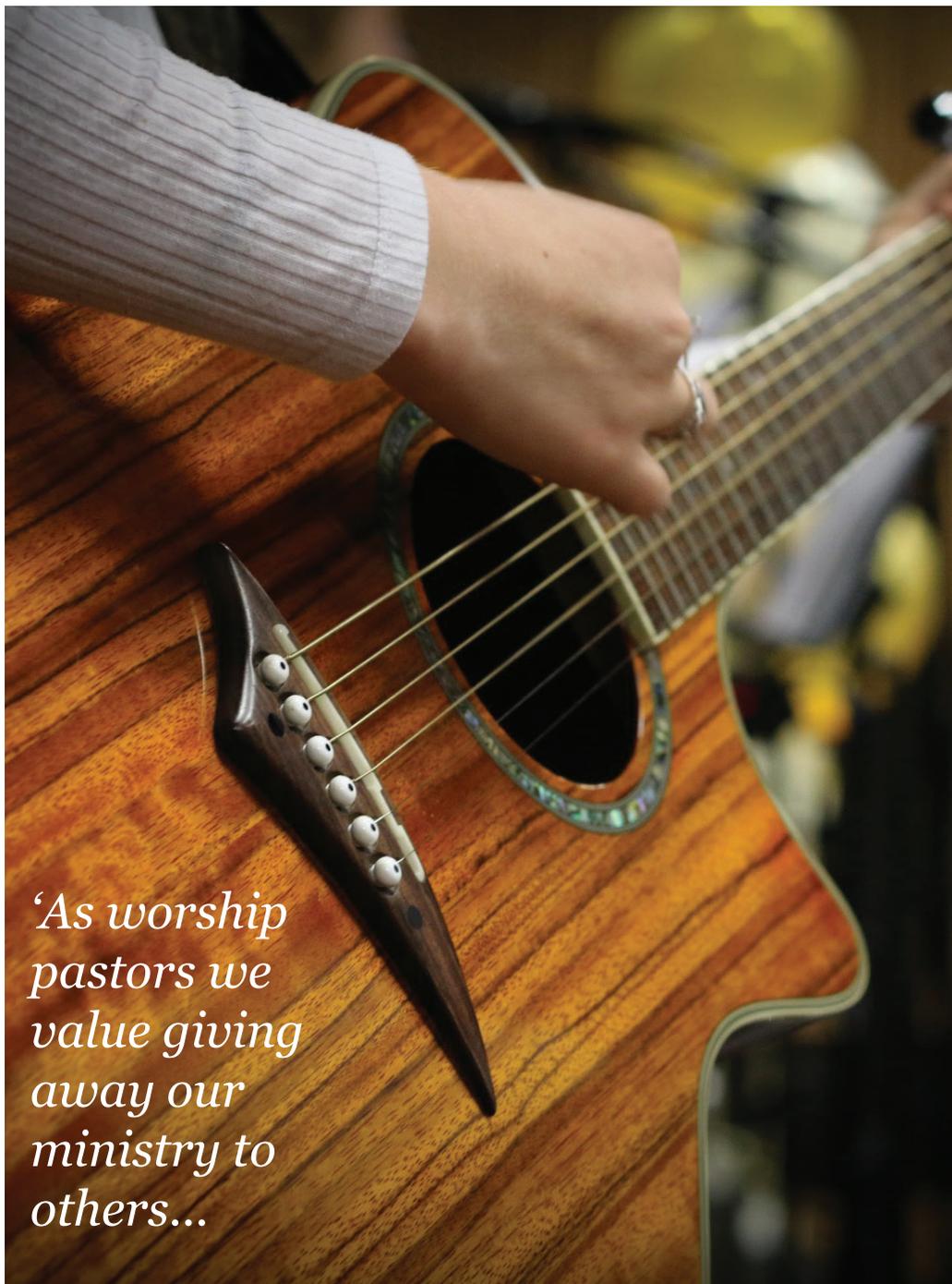
**Once a year we run the 101 Worship Course. We also make available online training materials and we aim to meet twice a year as a worship community.**

## ***Equipping the worship community***

Jesus' body is made up of many parts and each member has equal worth and value in His eyes. As such, we want to train and equip more musicians, songwriters etc. (not just for Sunday rotas) to fulfill the call of God on their lives, who in turn will reproduce themselves and hence reach many and varied people groups, impacting Taunton and beyond.

## ***How can you help?***

Worship changes an atmosphere.



*'As worship  
pastors we  
value giving  
away our  
ministry to  
others...*

# *Our commitment to you*

As worship pastors we value giving away our ministry to others by identifying, training and releasing new musicians, worship leaders, technicians, etc. Using music and visual media, we have the privilege of leading people into the presence of God. We will do our best to:

- Set vision
- Cultivate a kingdom culture where 'everyone gets to play'
- Equip the saints for works of service
- Direct worship resources and oversee administration
- Lead with all integrity
- Grow new leaders (Moses model)
- Take our job seriously before God
- Meet the criteria set out in scripture for ourselves

## ***A fuller definition of our commitment to you***

**We commit ourselves to lovingly caring for you and seeking your growth in Christ (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12).**

We commit that your leaders will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4). We commit to help you become equipped to serve Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

**We commit to seek God's will for our worship community to the best of our ability (Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:1-5).**



 [info@tauntonvineyard.org](mailto:info@tauntonvineyard.org)

 01823 275577

 [www.tauntonvineyard.org](http://www.tauntonvineyard.org)

 @tauntonvineyard

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