

Sharing Hope In Southampton

Celebrating Isaac Watts

Dear friends,

After Chris W and a few others had a discussion on the leaders WhatsApp in May, Dan C, Nathan and Neil Maddock met up to explore possibilities, aligning with the incubating vision to express ourselves as a City Church.

The idea of a public expression of worship across the city emerged. We want to reflect our individual ways of worshipping and to somehow bring them together to celebrate our different parts, at the same time as celebrating the life of someone important to our city.

This video is the result of that - it's a celebration of the life of Isaac Watts, who was born here 350 years ago, sung across 4 different settings in the city, each doing 'their thing', but joined together as a whole.

Our proposal

Our hope is that many churches will choose to **use this video as part of their service on 14th July**, and in doing so that we express ourselves as a City Collective, acknowledging each other and encouraging each other to be who we are within this wonderful one-body with Jesus as it's head.

Practicalities

The video is available here on YouTube.

https://youtu.be/Ujt4VUYOGnM?si=PwE_igLq8UBDKUdC

It's also available here as a download.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18opFbqbY_DfLAAdf3iTWf3XhIwO1jRz1/view?usp=sharing



The video can be played as part of a Sunday service, but may be used however you see best fit in your situation. It can also be shared via your social media (from 14th July onwards), and you are welcome to embed it in your websites, and publicity.

Wider circulation

We are working on some shorts that we can release on social media to start to communicate what's happening, and to engage people to come along to church on 14th. We are also putting together a press release for nearer the time, and you may already have seen it was used on BBC South Today last week. We've also been interacting with the city council and local schools to include them too.

It takes a bit of work to collaborate with a large group in this way - we recognise that this isn't the whole church represented here, but we have tried to show a cross section of our rich life in the city.

Questions?

Let us know if you have any questions on how you might use this, or any feedback.

Want to help us further?

One piece that we know is part of our ongoing work in the city is to communicate who we are to the people of the city. If you would like to help us, you could arrange to film or photograph your congregation as you worship on 14th July, to share with us. We believe that this film, together with footage of all of us joining together would be a great way to lift the lid on church and encourage people to engage with Jesus.

You may wish to share live stream video, or ask someone to take a video (landscape format) of your church as you do this.

If you're able to do this, please get in touch with Nathan, nathan@kings-soton.org.uk / 07785 907128.

Thankyou.

[For the Glory of God in His Church in our city]