

**meet**



**Sam  
Duerden**



# Meet Our Lead Pastor Candidate

We are delighted to welcome Sam and Rachel Duerden and their children, Seth & Phoebe, to New Hope during the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>. Our board of directors would like to introduce Sam as their recommendation for the role of Lead Pastor at New Hope.

We want to make every effort to provide you with opportunities for interaction and in-person meetings with Sam. In each of these informal gatherings, we will encourage times of question and answer so you can learn more about Sam, his vision and ministry philosophy.

The schedule below highlights several opportunities to get to know Sam throughout the week. We want to provide ample time for you to ask questions of Sam during the week, allowing for you to have an informed opinion prior to the Sunday business meeting where, if you are an official member of New Hope Community Church (London), you can cast your vote.

At most of these meeting times we will provide light food and refreshments. All meetings will be hosted at New Hope. Please schedule some time to come and meet with Sam, and to be very prayerful about this process. No RSVP is needed.

Sam will also have a detailed schedule of individual meetings with current staff and key leaders to help formulate a better understanding of each other.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Sam will share the Sunday morning message. Following second service, there will be an official members business meeting in which members of the charitable organization of New Hope Community Church (London), through the process of a private ballot, will vote as to whether to approve Sam Duerden as the Lead Pastor of New Hope.



# About Sam

**Family:** Married to Rachel for 19 years; father to Seth (13) and Phoebe (10)

**Background:** Originally from the North of England; has served in both the UK and the USA

14+ years in pastoral ministry, including lead pastor and executive pastor roles, plus teaching at a leadership college

**Education:** BA (Hons) in Biblical Studies & Theology – Mattersey Hall Bible College (2009)

MA in Missional Leadership – Alphacrucis (in progress)

Sam grew up in the north of England in a Christian home, but during his teenage years drifted far from faith. At 17, while living with his sister and brother-in-law, he accepted their invitation to attend church. That morning he encountered Jesus in a powerful way, gave his life to Him, and was forever changed.

Not long after, Sam met Rachel at church. They fell in love, married, and pursued ministry training together at Mattersey Hall Bible College. Since then, their lives have been marked by a shared calling to serve the church. Rachel is a gifted worship leader, musician, and creative person. Together they have poured their hearts into ministry for nearly two decades.



Sam and Rachel have been married for nineteen years and are the proud parents of Seth and Phoebe. As a family, they love being together, whether it's over music, creative projects, or

everyday moments. Ministry for them has always been a team effort, with each family member playing a part in following where God leads.



# Ministry Experience

For more than 14 years, Sam has served in churches across both the UK and the USA. He helped lead a struggling congregation in northern England into a thriving, healthy church community, guiding it through growth, outreach, and facility redevelopment.

Sam has also served as an Executive Pastor in large churches in both England and Illinois, where he oversaw staff teams, supported lead pastors, and developed ministries to reach their communities. Along the way, he has had the privilege of preaching and teaching in churches, conferences, and leadership settings across Europe and America.

Through it all, Sam's heart has been for the local church to be a place where people encounter Jesus and grow as disciples.



## Gifts & Passions

Sam has a passion for preaching God's Word with clarity, faith, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He loves seeing lives transformed as people encounter God through the truth of Scripture.

He is also deeply committed to developing leaders—helping people discover their gifts, grow in confidence, and use their strengths to serve God's kingdom.



Sam's ministry flows out of his personal walk with God. He treasures time in Scripture, prayer, and spiritual practices that keep him rooted and refreshed for service. More than anything, he longs to see people draw close to Jesus and live fully in God's calling for their lives.

# Sam's Sermons

We've included a few of Sam's sermons here so you can experience his preaching firsthand. Take some time to watch and you'll hear his passion for God's Word and his heart for people to encounter Jesus.

## Message 1

### We Value Gods Word

This message from September 10<sup>th</sup> 2024, Sam speaks powerfully and challenges us on the importance of getting into God's Word. He teaches us that the Bible is timeless, trustworthy and the truth.

### The Struggle is Real

Sam speaks openly about the challenges of life and faith, showing that struggles don't mean weak belief but are part of following Jesus. Rooted in Scripture, he points to God's presence in hardship with a warm, relatable style that's both practical and hope-filled.

## Message 2

## Message 3

### Tell The World

Pastor Sam leads us into Judges 7, showing how God equips us to be stronger than we realize. He unpacks Gideon's journey with warmth and clarity, encouraging listeners to trust in God's strength over their fears.



# Meet Sam Yourself

## Leaders Meet & Greet

This meet and greet is open to everyone from the church, but the focus is for leaders and volunteers to get a chance to chat with Sam.

**Tues**  
**Sept 9**

*6:00 pm – 7:30 pm*

**Wed**  
**Sept 10**

*10:00 am – 12:00 pm*

## General Meet & Greet

This session is open to the whole congregation. This meet and greet will also have a question and answer period with Sam.

## Chill & Chat Women's Night

Our women's group is hosting a chill & chat night, with a question and answer session for Sam and Rachel.

**Wed**  
**Sept 10**

*7:00 pm – 9:00 pm*

**Thur**  
**Sept 11**

*4:00 pm – 6:00 pm*

## General Meet & Greet

This session is open to the whole congregation. This meet and greet will also have a question and answer session with Sam.

## Sam at Youth

This meet and greet is set up for parents of JR & SR youth, as well as kids to meet Sam and have a question and answer session with him.

**Thur**  
**Sept 11**

*6:30 pm – 7:30 pm*

**Thur**  
**Sept 11**

*7:30 pm – 8:30 pm*

## Creative Arts Hang Out

Sam will get to hang out and meet anyone who volunteers with the creative arts team and host a question and answer period.



**Sat  
Sept 13**

*9:00 am – 11:00 am*

## Men's Breakfast

Sam will hang out for our regular men's breakfast, with a question and answer session held for an hour after the regular breakfast time.

## Sunday Message

Sam and the family will join us for Sunday morning where you will get a chance to hear him preach. Services are our regular two service times at 9:00 am and 10:30 (which is streamed)

**Sun  
Sept 14**

*9:00 am & 10:30 am*

**Sun  
Sept 14**

*12:30 pm – 1:00 pm*

## Member's Meeting

This meeting is for all members of the charitable organization of New Hope Community Church to vote as to approve Sam Duerden as the Lead Pastor of New Hope



# Board of Directors Recommendation

The Board of Directors is pleased to recommend Sam Duerden for the position of Lead Pastor of New Hope Church (London). Our search for a new Lead Pastor to follow Greg and carry the baton forward in reaching the next generation for Jesus has been an ongoing process. We are deeply grateful for your faithful prayers during this season of transition and have truly felt their impact throughout the journey.

Following the survey and the 30 Days of Prayer initiative, the Board had the privilege of considering ten potential leaders for this role. After prayerful discernment, narrowing the field to three candidates, and conducting two rounds of interviews, we unanimously agreed to recommend Sam for the position.

We believe Sam reflects the key qualities our church needs in this next chapter: a deep trust in Jesus, relatable and inspiring preaching, a servant-leadership approach, a commitment to helping staff and leaders flourish in their callings, humility and a willingness to listen and learn, and a genuine desire to honour Greg's ongoing support and legacy.

We invite you to join us for a time of introduction, conversation, preaching, and discernment as Sam and his family visit with us the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup>. We look forward with confidence and excitement to see what God has in store for New Hope in this new season.

