



CONNECTED

9th January 2022

“This day.....I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him”

Deut 30. 19, 20

A very warm welcome to St Swithin’s today.

New Beginnings – Choose Life

A New year brings fresh beginnings and opportunities, some of us will relish that, others will tip-toe into the New Year. But, our world needs to change. Wherever you look in our culture there is a dissatisfaction with how we’re living, inequality, our health, our greed, treatment of different races, abusing of the environment, our hoarding, our mental health, our fractured relationships and loneliness are just some of the signs that things need to change, and I can’t remember a time when people seemed so angry.

So where do we find life amidst the struggles? There will be many choices you can make in 2022, but God longs for us to choose Him, to make Him the priority, to put God first. God longs for us to come back to the source, the creator, the giver of life itself...choosing God in 2022 is a choice for life over death. We would love you to join us as we gather on Sundays

Date	Series	Title	Passage
2 nd Jan	A New Heart and Spirit	Walk by the Spirit	Ps 128, Luke 24. 11-35
9 th Jan	A New Heart and Spirit	Choose Life	Deut 30. 11-20
16 th Jan	A New Heart and Spirit	A New Heart	Ezek 36. 16-28
23 rd Jan	A New Heart and Spirit	The promise	Joel 2. 28-32
30 th Jan	A New Heart and Spirit	Walk by the Spirit	Gen 1.1-5
6 th Feb	Discerning the spirits	A Widow’s Joy	1 Kings 17. 7-24
13 th Feb	Discerning the spirits	Fire on the Mountain	1 Kings 18. 20-39
20 th Feb	Discerning the spirits	The still small voice	1 Kings 19. 1-18

Tim



NOTICES

We will continue to gather during this Winter period in a basic monthly pattern that follows in the table below.

Sun	10 am	6 pm
1st	Worship with groups	Evening Communion
2nd	Worship with groups inc. Communion	Informal Worship
3rd	Worship with groups	Evening Communion
4th	All-Age Worship	One-Offs
5th	Worship with groups	Ad hoc!

Please do keep an eye on the website and help us by booking online in the usual place.

We are still finalising the plans for this coming term and will provide more details next week.

Informal Worship

Join us for an evening of informal worship and prayer from 6pm this Sunday Evening.

Healing Retreat – Save the Date

We have booked the weekend of 11-13th March 2022 for a healing retreat at Harnhill Centre for Healing. There are 20 places available. More details to follow.

Thanks from St Andrews School

Mrs Jayne, the headteacher, has sent through a letter of thanks to the church for the generous donation of the vouchers that have been bought for St Andrews families. Thank you to all those who contributed.

Dick Whittington

St Phillips and St James Drama Group are proud to be once again putting on their annual pantomime from Weds 19th to Sat 22nd Jan.



Many members of our church past and present have been part of this group and it would be lovely to support them. Tickets are available online £10 for adults and £6 for OAPs and Children. Or contact Emily May for more information



Walking by the Spirit

This year's Sunday gatherings will focus on discovering what it means to 'Walk by the Spirit.' One of the accusations put at the door of the contemporary church is that we have effectively become Binarian, talking about Jesus and God the Father, but not finding the right place for the person and work of the Holy Spirit. *'The Forgotten God'* as the author Francis Chan has written.

We're going to discover more of the Holy Spirit together this year, by looking at themes, systematics and books of the Bible, as well as some one-off Sundays.

No Christian Experience happens without the work of the Holy Spirit, so we've got an amazing opportunity to discover more of what faith in practice look like this year as we 'Walk by the Spirit'.

Time during 2022	Focus	Theme
January and February 2022	The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament	A new Heart and a new Spirit
Lent	Ephesians 4	Formed by the Spirit – a vision of unity and maturity
April 17 th 2022	Luke 24	Easter - The Resurrecting Spirit
Early Summer	Paul's New Testament letters	God's Empowering Presence - The Holy Spirit in Paul
June 5 th 2022	Acts 2	Pentecost
Summer	Galatians 5. 22, 23 plus other texts	The Fruit of the Holy Spirit
Autumn 2022	Studying the book of Acts	Acts of the Spirit
December 2022	The Holy Spirit thro' the Bible	The Advent Spirit
December 25 th	Luke 2	Born of the Spirit



Mission Partners update

The Warehouse, Cape Town. South Africa



INSPIRE . EQUIP . CONNECT

We care passionately about the church actively living out the peace and justice of God for the world

We are a community committed to following Jesus Christ and living out his teachings under the leading and guidance of the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit. Our work is first and foremost an expression of this commitment.

As a community rooted in proximity to and solidarity with those living in poverty, those in pain and those bearing the brunt of inequality, we join the work that God is doing in the world, being nourished by the Holy Spirit and following the example of how Jesus lived and what he taught.

We view ourselves as catalysts of social healing, leading to prophetic actions in the world as we co-create spaces and build relationships that bring down divisions (racially, structurally, spiritually and economically) as we work towards mutual freedom and social transformation. We carry out our work through local churches & faith NGOs. We ask for prayer as:

- Craig Stewart, founder member and director, leaves after 19 years and a new team find their feet.
- Our work with pastors of township churches, bringing them much needed resources.
- Partnering with Cape Town City Council in co-ordinating relief when disasters such as a recent township fire where 3000 were left homeless.

We send our blessings for 2022 & our thanks for partnering with us.
Craig Stewart, The Warehouse. www.warehouse.org.za