

Praying for things that matter!!

At the beginning of this New Year lift up our Church to our Heavenly Father asking for His guidance and blessing for the future. As we pray for this, let us ask for 'listening ears and hearts' that we might respond in obedience to what He is saying.

Give thanks for the things that have encouraged us. The contacts made through the various initiatives held through the year and the new folk we have been privileged to welcome through it!

Let's have a 'special prayer space' for those of our fellowship facing surgery and difficult circumstances in 2022.

Rita has serious surgery planned for early January. Sue Vears in Australia is also expecting the surgery postponed in December to take place in January.

Pray for our Leaders. Ask that the result of Jacks treatment will continue to improve and he will be back to his 'best'! Pray our Leadership Team will be open to God's direction and obedient to His guiding.

Ask that the fellowship will see their role as 'the body of Christ' and take that responsibility in fulfilling their part in the life of the Church. **May we** all see ourselves as integral parts of the 'one body', taking our place enabling that 'body' to function as God intends and to not just be 'spectators'! **Then we** can look forward to seeing God do some amazing things among us in 'adding daily to the Church' just as He did in the early days!

Minister: Rev Jack Walker.

Secretary: June McCaughren

Treasurer: Laura Ivey

Leadership Team: Adam Stacey. John McCaughren. John Hadley.

Carols in the Car Park

A memorable evening doing 'celebrating' differently!! Well worth it!!



Musicians



Jack introducing things & enjoying the atmosphere



Yes, you can pray in the Car Park!!

Whitchurch Baptist Church

Sunday January 2nd 2022

Happy New Year

**WISHING YOU
A YEAR OF
IMMEASURABLE
BLESSINGS
AND JOY!**

Jack introduces a new series on 1 Peter.

'New Birth' 1 Peter 1 3-9.

We celebrate Communion today.

Pete Greig once asked Desmond Tutu how he kept the fire burning in his belly for so many years.

"Prayer," he said immediately without missing a beat.

"None of the other stuff would be possible, or sustainable, or meaningful without daily prayer."

Welcome to 2022!

What's on this week:-

Monday 10.30am Ladies Coffee & Chat

Wednesday 8pm Mid week study

Sunday January 9th. No 2 in 1 Peter.

'Born again life' 1 Peter 1 13-25

Dates for your diary.

January 23rd 10.30am at WBC

'Whitchurch Churches Together' united service. The local Anglicans and Methodist congregations will be joining with us. Service led by Jack Walker.

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord God, as I think about the year ahead I do have hope, but I admit I have some fears as well. I am carrying into the New Year some problems from the past year. I also know that it is always possible that unexpected things might happen.

And so I throw myself on your mercy, dear God. In you I take refuge. I am glad that I can entrust the upcoming year to you, and to entrust my very self to you. Purify my heart, O Lord. Teach me your ways. Help me to make good, right, and healthy choices. I also entrust my loved ones to you. I know how much they need your care. Please protect and guide them, and dear God, we pray for peace in our troubled world. We ask you to judge what is evil and to protect the innocent.

We take comfort in your words, "Behold, I am making all things new." (Rev. 21:5) Make my life new again.

*In Christ's Name,
Amen*

A word for the New Year

Only God knows the future, and, more importantly, is the caretaker and Lord of the future.

In Christian faith there is a bedrock truth that enables believers to move into the future with assurance: providence.

The God of the Bible is above all reality, encompassing in his vision and embracing in his power our past, present, and future.

God purchases no calendars, He keeps no schedule on a smartphone, He doesn't develop project charts. He is never surprised by what happens, but is alternately pleased and displeased by what does happen.

God talks us toward a good future, pointing us toward a life goal that no human being would have conceived. The good path is always just the next few steps in the direction of the good end.

[Mel Lawrenz trains an international network of Christian leaders, ministry pioneers, and thought-leaders. He served as senior pastor of Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, Wisconsin, for ten years and now serves as Elmbrook's minister at large. He has a Ph.D. in the history of Christian thought and is on the adjunct faculty of Trinity International University. Mel is the author of 18 books.]

How the Bible speaks today.

'I was born in Seattle, and met my husband when I was on holiday. We had a long-distance relationship for nine months and then married.

'My eldest daughter turned 13 a few days ago and when I was in hospital with her the day after she was born I wandered out of my room with her and sat down by a radio. It was tuned to our local radio station and the very next song to come on was "Turn, Turn, Turn" by the Byrds. Those words are taken directly from chapter 3 verses 1-8 of Ecclesiastes. I love that the first piece of music that she heard was this, as my life and hers had just started a new season together. We now have four daughters, aged 13, 10, 6 and 4. 'These are verses that come back to me, especially at major life changes. I have just turned 40 and my youngest daughter is off to school – "for everything there is a season".

'2017 was the year I wish hadn't happened.

We'd started major renovations in our house when my youngest daughter was three months old. We lived in a tent in the summer, with a newborn and three other children. But the people we chose to do the work did a terrible job – we're still finding mistakes. Then I fell pregnant again and in August I lost the baby and nearly died. My husband emotionally shut down; we were not in a good place. We're still getting back to normal, slowly. 'The fact that there are verses like Ecclesiastes in the Bible – and it's not just the little Bible stories you read as a child – all of the characters suffer and fail and have miserable times, and yet they're still celebrated. The Bible doesn't gloss over that. It's real about the struggles but there's so much hope, and joy, and light, and love.'



From the Queen's Christmas Message 2021

'It is this simplicity of the Christmas story that makes it so universally appealing, simple happenings that formed the starting point of the life of Jesus – a man whose teachings have been handed down from generation to generation, and have been the bedrock of my faith.

His birth marked a new beginning.