

New? Welcome!

You are very welcome – whether you are looking into Christianity for the first time, have been a Christian for years, or are looking for a church in Birmingham.



Please complete this tear-off slip and put it in the red box in the foyer, or give it to a member of staff or the welcome team.



Over seven weeks delve deeper into the Christian faith in a relaxed and friendly environment. Starting on **Thur 12 Jan**, 8.00 – 9.30pm. Pick up a flyer from the foyer or contact the

Office for more details,
office@sssw.org.uk, 4728253.

Christianity Explored is for anyone who'd like to investigate Christianity, or just brush up on the basics. We will be looking at Mark's Gospel and exploring who Jesus is, why he came, and what it means to follow him.

It doesn't matter whether you have previous experience of Church, Christians and the Bible, or none at all. Everyone is welcome, from the most sympathetic enquirer to the Convinced atheist.

A typical evening starts with hot drinks and cake, followed by a short talk on DVD and time to chat about what you've just heard.

I would like to know more about:

- Being a Christian
- Newcomers' events
- Small Groups
- Pre-school activities
- Children's / Youth Work
- Student events
- Giving to the church
- Other

Christmas Day

25th December 2016
10.00am

**All-Age Celebration with
Holy Communion**

*Welcome! We're so glad you've
joined us today.*

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

OPENING PRAYER (*Chris Hobbs*)

CAROL O Come, all ye faithful

SONG Come and join the celebration

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have gone our own way and broken your laws. We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them. For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us, and change us. By your Holy Spirit enable us to live for you and to please you more and more, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made, In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us; we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. Amen.

SONG Let me tell you about a baby

BIBLE READING Luke 2:1-20 (page 1027)
(*Amanda Martin*)

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

TALK The Shepherds' Christmas
(*Andy Martin*)

PRAYERS (*Kathryn Hindley*)

SONG From the squalor of a
borrowed stable

COMMUNION (*please turn over*)

CAROL Hark! The herald angels sing

CLOSING PRAYER

*Gifts for Open Doors may be placed in the
red box in the foyer.*

COMMUNION

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in your great love you gave your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there a full atonement for the sins of the whole world, through his one offering of himself.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we receiving this bread and this wine may share in his most precious body and blood.

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread and gave you thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

ADMINISTRATION *of the bread and wine*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

This Week

Sun
1 Jan

All Age Service, 10.00am.
A Brand New Day (Lamentations 3:22-23). Helen Buckley.

Looking Ahead

Fri
6 Jan

Prayer for Growth, 7.00 – 11.00pm
An evening to pray for the growth of our church.

Please find letter in pigeon holes.

Mon
9 Jan

Women's book club are reading 'The Hiding Place'. Newcomers welcome! See

Elizabeth Barry or Chris Stonehouse for more details.

Sat
21 Jan

Church Family Walk at Sutton Park, starting at 2pm. Details from the

Sun
15 Jan

Church Family Meal. Straight after the morning service.

Thu
26 Jan

CAP Money Course begins. Worried about money? A free course to help you manage your money better, learn to budget, save and spend well. Thursday evenings until 9th Feb. Contact the Office for more details.

Wed
1 Feb

Faith: Outdated or Essential? Birmingham ICC, 7.00 – 9.30pm.

Tickets on sale from the office at £10, including a meal. Pick up a flyer from the information table in the foyer.

Our Church Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year, and will reopen on Tuesday 3rd Jan.

News and Requests

Updated **Church Family Address books** and

Prayer Guides are available. Pop your name on the list at the back of church if you'd like one.

Winter Night Shelter at St Stephen's. Thank you for volunteering: you should have received your rota. Please plan to come to the Night Shelter lunch/prayer time/training after the Morning Service on Sun 8th Jan.

Sunday Club Leaders Please collect your material for next term. It's in your pigeon



Questions about God, faith, life, Christianity, the Bible and Jesus.

Before Christmas, we asked people what their big questions are, and these or similar were the three most frequently asked:

Jan 8th - Suffering:
Where is God when it hurts?

Jan 15th - Truth:
Why should I trust the Bible?

Jan 22nd - Hypocrisy:
How can Christians behave so badly?

Each week, morning and evening, there will be a short talk and then a chance to ask follow-up questions.