

Our vision to Make Jesus the Heart of Southsea means that we are committed to supporting people to Grow in Faith. To do this, we will create opportunities to encounter Jesus, so that we can be guided by his Word and empowered by his Spirit. Our desire is to be intentional in providing a pathway of growth into a deeper relationship with Jesus. We expect that as a desire to become disciples develops as a part of how we work, we will see real fruit.

Discipleship Definition

Our agreed definition of Discipleship is:

Being with Jesus, Becoming like Jesus, Doing the things Jesus did.

Being with Jesus: spending time in his presence and seeking his presence with others.

Becoming like Jesus happens as we apply what we learn in his Word and are guided by his Spirit.

Doing the things Jesus did flows as a natural response to his love and grace as we seek to make an impact in our community for him.

Personal Growth and Commitment

As a church, we aim to provide the structures which make it as easy as possible for someone to grow in their discipleship of Jesus, but Jesus is the one who, Scripture tells us, stands at the door and knocks. We recognise the need for individuals to take responsibility for their own journey with Jesus, both by engaging in the wider life of the church, and by committing to grow as a disciple in the quiet place.

Personal Study

We encourage every member of the church to be committed to growing in their understanding of the gospel, allowing the Lord to speak to them daily. Each Lent, we will renew a call to the church to make space each day to retreat with the Lord and read His Word. We will offer a range of resources and guided reading and encourage this period to be a season where new habits are formed, or older ones are reforged.

Bible Course and Living Free

Our two values are Word and Spirit. Whilst significantly integrated, the Bible Course and Living Free each offer specific insights into these two aspects of our faith. We hope that every member of the church will engage in the teaching offered and consider renewing their knowledge of it every few years. Both courses form part of the delivery of our whole vision, as they are a way to grow deeper in our faith and understanding, discover His hope and healing power, and understand the love God has for all His children.

Membership of St Jude's

It is our intention that those who choose to make St Jude's their home will make a personal commitment to discipleship. As part of this expectation, we will define St Jude's members as committing in each of these four ways:

Praying

This is the foundation of all we are, and we hope that any member of St Jude's will commit to a life of both individual and corporate prayer. We will enable the prayer life of the church by:

- Hosting twice termly **prayer evenings** to help the church engage in prayer for the church and our world. Three times a year these will be held on the first Wednesday of each term. We also host Dwell – a city wide worship evening held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 7pm.
- **Prayer updates.** Small groups will be encouraged to pray for our community and mission partners as part of their time together. We will provide prayer points each term. In addition, individuals can pray for the life of the church through the weekly and monthly prayer updates.
- **Smaller prayer gatherings.** Each week a small community meet on Zoom to pray, on a Wednesday (Breathe); the church also hosts a weekly intercessory prayer group. We gather monthly to specifically to pray for both the work of our nursery and a small group gather to pray prophetically over the life of St Jude's.

Giving

Recognising that all we have, we receive from the Lord, there is an expectation that we will give back to him as part of our ongoing discipleship of Jesus. We will enable giving to the church by:

- Easily accessible and well signposted access to giving through a giving station in church.
- Yearly update and gift day, encouraging members to review their giving for the year ahead. A half yearly smaller update, with a smaller gift day will be held at the 6-month point.
- Monthly updates on the financial situation so far, both from the front of church and weekly e-mail – mostly this is an invitation for new members to start giving.

Serving

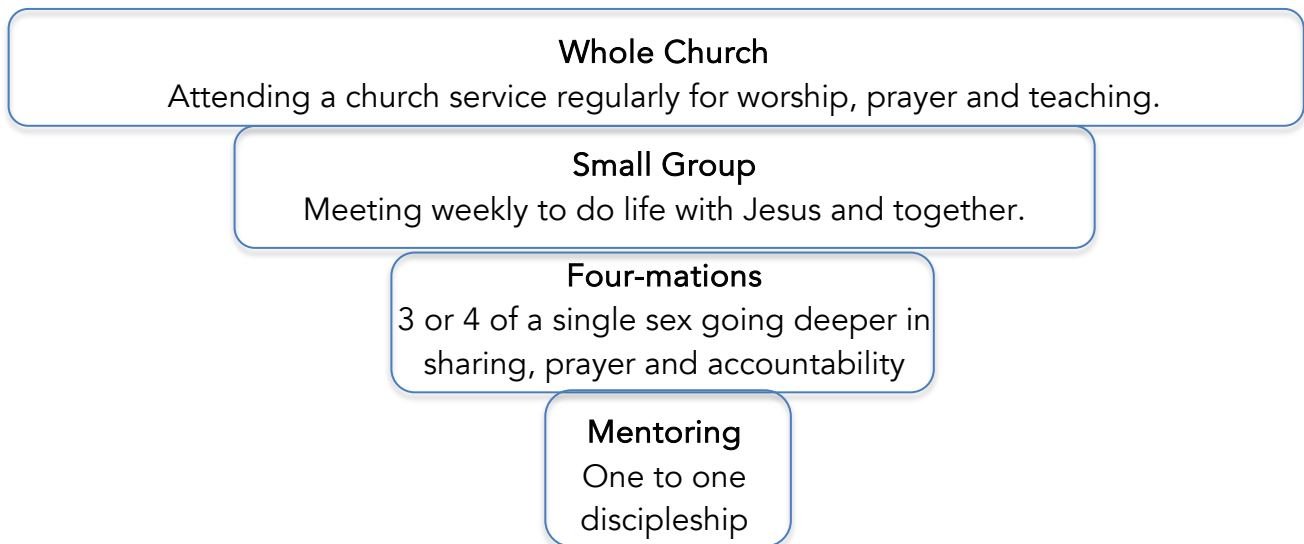
The church is its members rather than the building, so we will encourage every member of the church to be involved in some way in the life of the church. As a church leadership we will enable people to serve the church by:

- Offering regular reminders to join teams or take on specific roles as the need arises.

- As part of our Welcome strategy, encouraging people to consider how they can get involved.
- Encouragement to join ministries from the front (e.g. Friday Fridge or kids/youth team).
- Keeping the website up to date with current vacancies.
- As a wider leadership team, taking an interest in each individual member to discover their gifts and calling and seeing them released into them.

Gathering

Church is the body of Christ joined together to bring glory to God. In the gospels we see Jesus model an individual relationship with the Father, but he also takes care of the 3, the 12 and the 72. Paul models for us a one-to-one discipleship model, particularly considering his relationships with Barnabas and Timothy. We hope that our members will gather in four ways:



Whole Church

Our main services on Sundays will continue to focus on worship in His Spirit and dwelling in His Word. We will spend time in sermon series that seek to challenge and equip us. These will be drawn from across the Old and New Testaments.

Small Groups

Life Groups and Connect Groups provide places of accountability and fellowship. The aim is to do life together with Jesus and with one another. The groups will be provided with small group notes based upon the sermon series. Group leaders will be trained and encouraged as they serve their groups.

Four-mations or Prayer Triplets

These smaller, more intimate, places to grow enable people to share on a deeper level in same sex groups who will keep in touch and update one another on day-to-day prayer needs. These can occur within or across the small group structures.

Mentoring

This already happens for some of our teenagers, students and young adults in St Jude's and many adults will also have a spiritual director or soul friend. We would encourage all our church members to find a specific person to help them on their journey of faith.