

Course Programme

All sessions Thursdays 10.30 am–12.15 pm,
repeated at 7.30 pm–9.15 pm,
at Christ Church

- Wk.1. Oct 12th — ‘Christ Church Past’.
We explore the big picture of what being fruitful for God might look like, and how Christ Church’s changing mission field over the centuries fits into that picture.
- Wk. 2. Oct 19th — ‘Christ Church Present’.
We look at some of the ways we are already being fruitful for God today, and how we might build on this through *what* we do and *how* we do it.
- Wk. 3. Oct 26th — ‘Identifying our Frontline’.
We explore our frontline as a church community, and ask how we might introduce Christian values such as grace and love into the secular culture around us.
- Wk. 4. Nov 2nd — ‘Christ Church Future’.
We look in more detail at the new proposed Vision for our church, and explore how we might make the good news of the gospel of God’s love more accessible to the people of our parish by making our church better known to them.
- Wk. 5. Nov 9th — ‘The Journey On’.
How has the course helped us to see our church, our parish and our God with new eyes?
How will the proposed Vision enable us to grow in fruitfulness on our changing frontline?

Refreshments served

An exciting new Vision for Christ Church

Our Christ Church Mission statement is ‘*To know Christ and to make Him known*’.
This 5-week course will help us to do this more effectively, and so make us more fruitful for God.

The course explores how our church mission field here in Nailsea has gradually altered over time, and is still altering today as the population of Nailsea changes. As such the course will serve as a launch-pad for an exciting proposed Vision for Christ Church over the next five years: ‘*To know, and be known by, the whole of our parish.*’

— that is, to put ourselves on the map as a church where the love of Christ shines out in everything we say and do, and where everyone, without exception, feels welcome, loved and included.

The course invites discussion of some of the new initiatives being considered with regard both to our mission work in the parish, and also to our actual church building, in order that we might minister more effectively to this changing population, and so be more fruitful for God.

We would encourage the entire congregation to come along and participate in these important discussions from the outset.



TELLING THE CHRIST CHURCH STORY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

A 5-week course helping us discover how we all, both as individuals and as a church community, might become more fruitful for God in our normal, everyday lives.

What has God already been doing through us in the past? Probably more than we think.

What might God want to do through us in the future? Probably more than we can imagine.

As part of the course we shall be discussing an exciting new proposed Vision for Christ Church as a means of becoming more fruitful for God here in Nailsea. Come and discover how we might engage and interact more with those who live and work in our parish; how we might put Christ Church firmly on their radar, and so make our work here count for the King and His kingdom.

EVERYBODY VERY WELCOME!

- **WHAT is 'Fruitfulness'?**

'Fruitfulness' simply means being fruitful for God — making our lives count for the King and for his kingdom. It means being the people, and the church, that God wants us to be. It means making this little patch of God's creation right here in the parish of Christ Church, Nailsea, as much like the kingdom of God as we possibly can, through the ordinary, everyday things we do.

- **WHY does Fruitfulness matter?**

Because Jesus says so! By being fruitful we show ourselves to be his true disciples:

"I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will become even more fruitful... I am the vine and you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing... This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.' (John 15:1-8)

- **HOW do we become more fruitful?**

By becoming ever more like Jesus! For as we grow more like Christ we show the fruit of his Spirit in our lives:

'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control'. (Gal. 5:22-23)

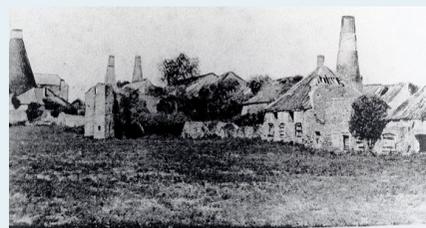
- **WHERE is our 'Frontline'?**

Our frontline is wherever we habitually find ourselves in our normal, everyday life — the places we go to, the people we meet, the things we do, the choices we make.

As individuals, our frontline may be in the office, down the shops, at the bowls club, in our own homes. Our church frontline is the town of Nailsea, with its schools, offices, shops, private dwellings, residential and retirement homes, and places of worship. More specifically, we have a duty of care towards all who live and work within the parish of Christ Church.

- **WHEN was our church frontline first established, and how has it altered?**

The course explores how the frontline of Christ Church has changed over time, from the 1840's when the church was first built to minister to the town's burgeoning mining and glasswork industries; through the 20th century, when heavy industry was replaced by commercial and residential properties; and on into the 21st century with a growing number of schools and young families, and at the same time an ever-increasing number of residential and retirement homes for the elderly population.



THE OLD GLASS WORKS, WITH CONE, NAILSEA. Photo & Pub by Alfred Vewles...

- **HOW might we become more fruitful on our frontline?**

The course examines how we are already being fruitful on our frontline as a town-centre church. But it also explores whether there might now perhaps be new and different ways of being fruitful.

It looks at the opportunities for fruitfulness offered by our changing frontline, and explores some of the exciting initiatives both for mission and for our church building that are being proposed as part of the new Vision for our church's future.

The course asks us to re-evaluate how we might best serve the needs of our town and parish, and so be the fruitful church God wants us to be.

