

REFRESHING VISION & VALUES

FOR

SPRINGFIELD.CHURCH

**Following God's leading
for the next season**

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INTRODUCTION

We're really excited to be sharing with you the first stages of Springfield's refreshed Vision and Values.

Before we dig into the detail, here's a little background to how this came about. Leading up to last year's AGM there was a period of 9 months of **prayer & discernment** by the whole church, which led to the creation of a 'Profile document' which outlined the kind of church the leadership believed God was **calling Springfield to be**. Following David's appointment as Pioneer Vicar, that discernment has continued. In particular, termly prayer gatherings to seek God for his leading, and more recently the leadership (church council, staff team, Greenhouse pioneering, and Group and ministry leaders) all met for a Vision morning to gather all these raw materials, and seek to pull together the 'big picture' of the '**new thing**' we sensed God wants to do among us. At its heart, this has been a **prayerful process**.

We believe that when God does a 'new thing' it always connects with what's gone before. So as we recall God's faithfulness over 32 years of Springfield what you see in the following pages all seeks to build upon this amazing journey so far.

SCRIPTURES FOR THS SEASON

The Bible passages below represent **key verses** which we believe speaks of God's **heart for Springfield** in this coming season. They are rich in **imagery** that connects with our **name** and **calling**.

**The LORD will guide you continually,
giving you water when you are dry
and restoring your strength. You will
be like a well-watered garden, like
an ever-flowing spring.** [Isaiah 58:11]

**It's not the one who plants or the one
who waters who is at the centre of this
process but God, who makes things
grow.** [1 Corinthians 3:7]

**See I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it?** [Isaiah 43:19]

PROPHETIC THEMES IN OUR NAME

One of the key things we wanted to do as part of this Vision process has been to reconnect with the prophetic imagery in Springfield's history and name:



Spring - water that rises up from deep underground and brings overflowing abundant life around up

Field - space to belong, to play and have fun, to explore and grow, all nurtured by the living spring w and

Church - a community gathered around Jesus.

A place for us to go deep in our spiritual lives as we seek the true source of hope

PAINTING A PICTURE

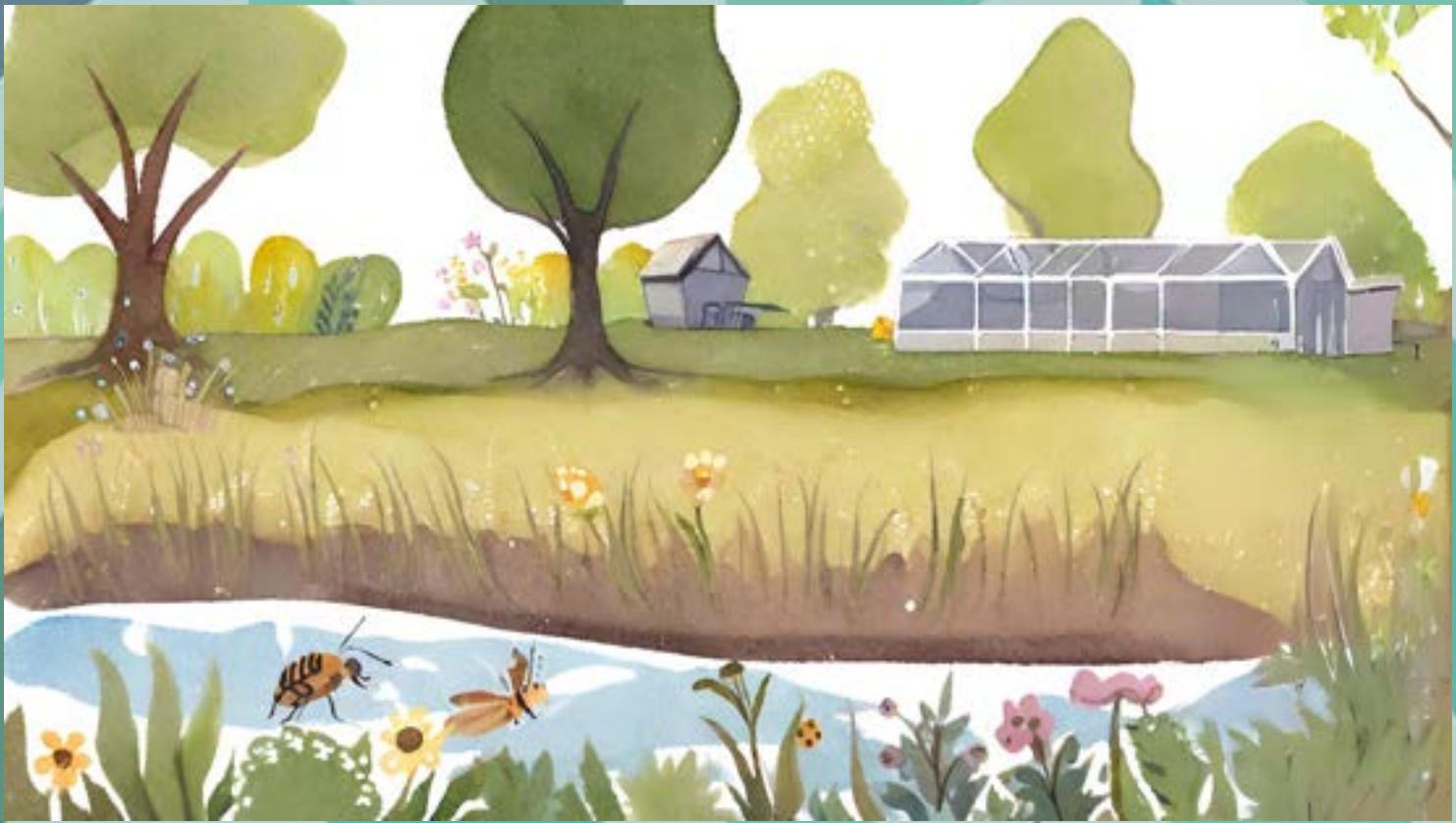
Using these themes, let's try and paint a picture of what we believe God's vision looks like for Springfield:

Imagine a field bursting with life and abundance from natural spring waters that bubble up from deep below the surface.

Imagine a landscape transformed with abundant growth, where a vast biodiversity of plants and animals can thrive.

Imagine these plants and wildlife all living in safety and freedom as the land is lovingly nurtured and cultivated.

PAINTING A PICTURE (B)



We believe this '[Spring Field](#)' is a vision of God's transforming work in our community, workplaces and homes.

It's not a vision just for us, but for our whole community and all the places we find ourselves. And It's a vision that we all get to play our part in, as part of God's wider ecosystem of other churches and partners in the community: where we all get to jump into the flow of the Spirit's life-giving water as we seek to nurture every seed, plant and tree that God is growing in the mission fields all around us; where the name of Jesus becomes famous because so many have been impacted by His life giving love.

VISION STATEMENT

We want to put this picture into words for our new vision statement, based on the three themes of our name.

We believe our God-given vision is to thrive like a 'Spring Field'. Becoming communities:

*This statement is a **prayerfully-discerned declaration** of where we believe God is calling us to in the **next 5-7 years**. Our vision is not just for our church, but for our whole community and we believe it is to be a journey of **transformation**, focussing on who we are all '**becoming**' along the way - a thriving Spring Field.*

SPRING THEME

FIELD THEME

CHURCH THEME

Our desire is to overflow with God's presence. The options use the prophetic imagery of an underground natural 'spring' that brings new life & continually flows within and through us.

overflowing
with
abundant life

Our hope is for everyone to know God's radical welcome - that everyone is able to play in the field of faith. For both Springfielders and those in the wider community.

where
everyone
can belong

Our vision is for the spring waters to bring life so that seeds of faith can flourish in the field of our community, and ultimately discover Jesus as their hope.

and find
hope in
Jesus

VALUES TO LIVE THIS OUT

Springfield is made up of ordinary people who have had a life-changing encounter with an extraordinary God.

As a church community, we want our vision to flow out of our values. So these are **three aspirational values** reflecting what kind of a community we believe God is calling us to be as we live out the refreshed Vision. These were formed by drawing together all the ways we've articulated our values in the past, and everything that came from the profile and prayer times.

COURAGE

Obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit

'For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.' [2 Timothy 1:7]

COMPASSION

Moved by our heavenly Father's tender heart

'The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate.'
[Psalm 103:13]

CREATIVITY

Connected with Christ's renewing creativity

'Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live.'
[1 Corinthians 8:6]

There will clearly be lots of **overlap** between these values, and echoing the **Trinity** (which these values connect with), if you are connecting with one person of the Trinity (say **Jesus**), you are also simultaneously in union with the **Father** and the **Spirit**, yet they are also mysteriously distinct. So that's the way we're making sense of these three distinct but intermingling values.

BREAKING DOWN THE VALUES (A)

SPRING

overflowing with abundant life

COURAGE

Prioritising the **presence** of God - growing in expectation and **freedom** in our worship

Experiencing **miracles** by regularly practising gifts of the **Holy Spirit**. Living like nothing is impossible for God

Regularly taking **risks** for Jesus, stepping out of our comfort zones to **share our faith**. Enjoying holy chaos

Obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit

FIELD

where everyone can belong

COMPASSION

Celebrating the gift of **diversity** where people from all backgrounds and the overlooked are loved and **included**

Sharing lives deeply together throughout the week. Being real - walking in forgiving and honest **relationships**

Genuine welcome - where everyone gets to play, help and practice **radical generosity** to sow into Gods mission

Moved by the tender heart of God

BREAKING DOWN THE VALUES (B)

CHURCH

and find hope
in Jesus

CREATIVITY

Dynamic **worship** and **prayer** lives growing deep into Jesus - embracing creativity to nourish our **spirituality**

Communicating the **Bible** in ways that make deep connections with our everyday lives and the wider community

Up for pioneering and trying **new things** - not thinking there's only one 'right' approach to do something

Connected with Christ's renewing creativity

Note that '**creativity**' is not necessarily about liking art or poetry, but having a stance of seeing **fresh possibilities**, trying new things, and experimenting. This has always been in Springfield's DNA, flowing from the model of **Jesus** who was **endlessly creative** in His use of stories and metaphor that were relevant to His audience.

SUMMARY OF VISION & VALUES

This visual shows a summary of all three layers:

- The **vision** we believe God is calling us to in this season
- The **values** we believe God wants us to grow in to fulfil this vision among us (resonating with the three persons of the Holy Trinity)
- The **prophetic imagery** in our name

We believe our God-given vision is to thrive like a 'Spring Field'. Becoming communities:

overflowing
with
abundant life

COURAGE

[Holy Spirit]

where
everyone
can belong

COMPASSION

[Father God]

and find
hope in
Jesus

CREATIVITY

[Jesus Christ]

SPRING FIELD.CHURCH

PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING YEAR

There is a **long journey** towards realising the vision that God has for Springfield in this season.

Below are some of the **first priorities** we are going to focus on for the **year ahead** to honour that **vision** becoming a **reality**.

Making space:

FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

Creating more space for encountering God's presence through worship, communion, prayer and revelation from the Bible, leading to greater freedom in the Holy Spirit (e.g. healing & prophecy) and living like Jesus throughout the week.

TO GROW IN DIVERSITY

Shaping what we do, what we stand for, and how we meet together, so we might grow in our diversity and inclusion. Intentionally raising up the next generation and enabling leadership to be more representative of the local area.

FOR BEING COMMUNITY

Creating space for genuine relationships to thrive through church hospitality (e.g. lunches and more midweek groups) but also encouraging shared lives outside organised events (i.e. hosting and being hosted).

FOR ALL TO BE INVOLVED

Every member of Springfield finding their part to play in the 'new thing' God is doing - both through Greenhouse pioneering (for Roundshaw and also wider Wallington) and alongside everyone's personal 'mission field'.

NEXT STEPS

Following the AGM, Springfield's leadership will prayerfully take what was shared here forward in the following ways:

1. Finalise vision statement
We will seek to road test the refreshed vision with various groups within Springfield and the wider community to ensure it resonates effectively.
2. Develop plan for priorities
We will shape our plans and resources around ensuring these priorities have the best chance of being realised, with God's help!
3. Communicate refreshed vision
We will use our website and other communications tools to help to gather our community around this vision.
4. Refresh visuals
Ensuring our visual identity across our communication channels all connect with the refreshed vision & values.

Closing words....

There is a lot in here, and if it was up to us, it would be impossible. But if **every one of us** plays our part in what **God** is calling us to, and we remember that ultimately it is **God's work**, then God can do the **impossible** in and through us!

God is the gardener [1 Corinthians 3:7], we are His children, the workers called to play our part in tending and nurturing what God is already doing in our community. **Amen.**

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