

# CHRISTIANITY

A JOYFUL SPIRITUALITY?

THE BOOK OF  
GALATIANS  
10 OCT - 28 NOV

Wk 6

Sunday 14 November 2021

*The electronic version of this contains a number of hyperlinks throughout. Feel free to use them.*

TODAY'S  
9:45AM  
SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
Galatians 5:1-15
- Sermon
- Prayer
- Song
- Interview
- Song
- Conclusion

If you are a visitor to our online service please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.  
BSB: 062 272  
Account Number:  
00490436

Welcome to St Stephen's! It's been great to meet in person these past weeks following the 4-month lockdown. We are grateful for your presence today! If you are new or visiting we would love to hear from you. You can use the QR code to access an electronic connect card.

What are we about as a church? Our vision statement says 'We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ'. We want to be transformed from what we are to what Christ can make us. We think St Stephen's is pretty great in many ways and yet we know God can work to shape us into something far more beautiful. Will you come along with us for the journey?



It's time to plan for Christmas and the hope it brings. After the service you will find packs of Christmas cards which you can use to invite your family and friends to our various Christmas celebration moments. Grab a bundle for your family and friends and grab one to put in nearby letterboxes. We're praying this will be the start of the journey God takes us on.



St Stephen's  
WILLOUGHBY

## Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Psalm 32:1

Lord our God,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes early away.  
Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

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 forever. Amen

# Sermon Notes

Christian Freedom | [Galatians 5:1-15](#)

1. What is Christian Freedom?

2. What threatens it?

3. How do you live freely?

4. Why does he give it?

## **Connect Group Study**

Icebreaker: Have you experienced freedom - of some form - in life?  
Share a few stories.

### **Read Galatians 5:1-6**

1. What do you think the Christian 'Freedom' is?

2. What threatens this freedom? (5:1b-4)

3. How does the gospel give us true freedom?

### **Read verses 7-10**

4. What strikes you?

5. There are many voices in our worlds that can make us 'confused' about the gospel and the freedom it brings. What voices (ideas, relationships, motivations) might 'cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth'?

6. Reflect on verse 12, how could Paul say such a thing?

**Read verses 13-15**

7. How does the law relate to Christian freedom?

8. What does this mean for us? What might it mean for you this week in your work, relationships, church-life, service of others?

**Prayer Points**

**Read the Bible with us!**

Read these passages with the following questions in mind:

What role does the preaching of God's word play in people coming to faith? How does that challenge you?

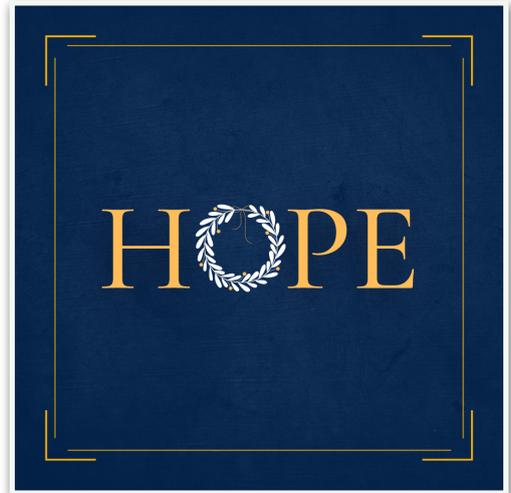
Monday - [Acts 16:1-10](#)  
Tuesday - [Acts 16:11-24](#)  
Wednesday - [Acts 16:25-34](#)  
Thursday - [Acts 17:1-9](#)  
Friday - [Acts 17:16-34](#)

## Notices

### Christmas Services

Last year our Christmas Services were interrupted by the Avalon outbreak. This year we are praying God would bring many to hear the news of Christmas.

We will have 4 services, and each will cater for different worship tastes and seasons of life. Our 4pm Service on Christmas Eve is perfect for young families. It will be short, engaging to kids and hopefully followed by a basic BBQ which means kids go home with dinner! Our 11pm will be a beautiful version of Lessons and Carols – perfect for contemplation. Our 7:45am Service will be a traditional time of worship while our 9:45am Service will be a community service with the ‘Come and Sing’ Community Choir leading us in carols. Who can you bring this year?



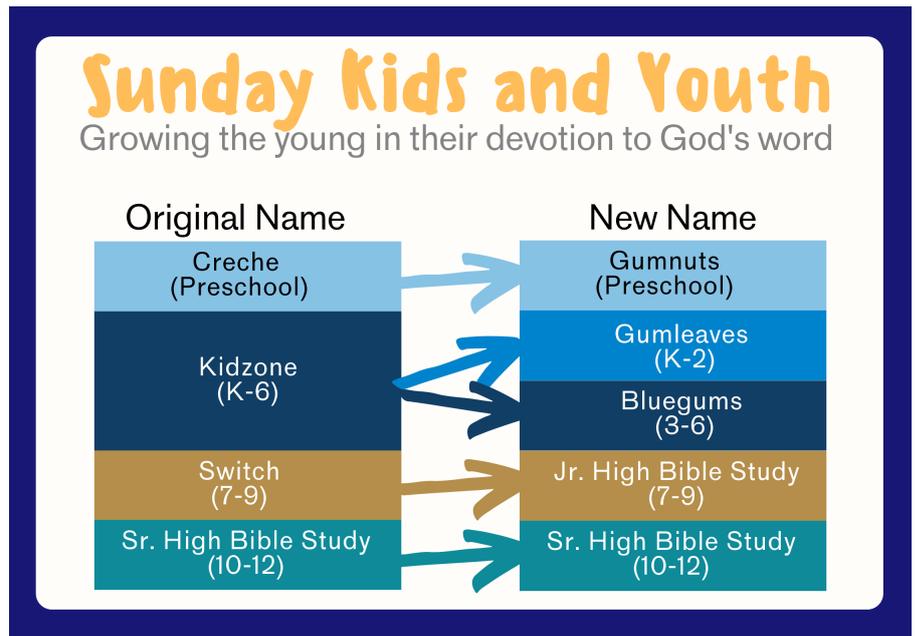
### Carols on the Grass

Our Carols event on Saturday, December 11th is shaping up to be just as joyous as last year. We have the WPS Band again, the ‘Come and Sing’ Community Choir (for the first time) and our very own Carols Band. Along with this, we’re putting on dinner and dessert for our guests, kids’ packs and activities, a roaming photo booth, Christmas decorations and (of course) making everything COVID-safe. Needless to say, there’s a lot of great things happening and we’d love your help. You can sign up today and love come serve our community in various ways. Last year this was such a great event and at full capacity with over 300 guests. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to be a part of it.



## Sunday Kids and youth programs renamed

Our Sunday kids groups have grown in numbers, so we have split them into three groups. In addition to Creche, we will have a K-2 group and a 3-6 group. This is great news! It means kids can be disciples in a more age-appropriate way.



Creche would now be called Gumnuts. K-2 would be called Gumleaves and the 3-6 group will be christened Bluegums. Switch would now be called Junior High Bible Study and Sr. High Bible Study will stay as-is. A big thanks to the Church leaders and the families who helped us finalise these names.

We love the new names because they remind us that our mission is to grow the young in their devotion to God's word and God is at work right from our youngest group right up to the oldest. The kids also love the fun Australian twist.

## Straw Farewell

On Sunday, 21 November we farewell Matt, Naomi and Leif Straw from St Stephen's. Matt has been our Assistant Minister for 5 years and is moving to Surry Hills for a new season of ministry. Matt has been a significant influence in the life of many people in our parish. To recognise his service to us we will be holding a farewell lunch for morning services and the evening service will be heading out to dinner together after church. There are limited spots available owing to COVID restrictions. So please [register](#).



## What's Coming Up

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Sunday 14th   | Letterbox drops for Carols begins - You can collect the from the back of the church  |
| Monday 15th   | Online Prayer Meeting 8:30-8:55am - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a><br>Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321   Passcode: 836532                        |
| Friday 17th   | Youth Alpha at Half Past Six is onsite<br>Email <a href="mailto:pippie@st-stephens.com.au">pippie@st-stephens.com.au</a> for details |
| Sunday 21st   | Straw Farewell, <a href="#">Registration</a> and Vaccination Required.<br>— December —   |
| Saturday 11th | Carols on the Grass from 5-7 pm. <a href="#">Register Now!</a>   |

## Our Staff - Contact us!



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