

# H O P E

Wk 1

Sunday 05 December 2021

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

**TODAY'S  
9:45AM  
SERVICE:**

- Welcome
- Song
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
Genesis 1:1-5 &  
John 1:1-18
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayer
- Communion
- 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 the season of Advent – a time when we remember the birth of Christ and the promise that he will return again. We hope you enjoy your time with us. We would love to hear from you so please take a moment and fill in the online Connect Card. You can access the card via the QR Code below.

On Saturday we will have our annual Carols on the Grass. We would love to have you and your family & friends join us. We kick off at 5pm with dinner and then groups from Willoughby Public School and the Come & Sing Choir, along with our own

musicians, will lead us through carols. Last year was such a great afternoon and we hope you will join us this year.

After a year of further challenges from COVID we want to remind ourselves and our community that God is a source of hope. His great hope is seen most clearly in the birth of Jesus. When Jesus came into the world he showed us how deeply he cared for this world he had created.



St Stephen's  
WILLOUGHBY

## **Prayers for those not sharing in Lord's Supper**

Participation in the Lord's Supper is for those who have professed faith in Jesus - it's a powerful and important symbol of the Christian message. As such we want to encourage those who are still exploring the Christian faith to feel free to remain in their seats when others move to the front to receive the Lord's Supper. During that time you may want to reflect on the sermon or Bible reading. You may also want to pray one of these prayers below.

### **Prayer for those searching for truth**

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me who you are. Give me an understanding of you that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

### **Prayer of belief**

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Saviour and Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for those struggling with sin**

Lord Jesus, enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayers adapted from Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York.

### **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

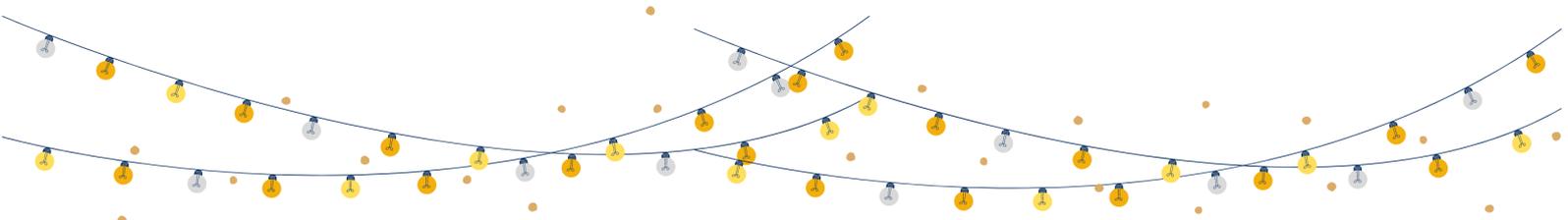
[Genesis 1:1-5](#) & [John 1:1-18](#)

# Summer Survey

Closes this week

Have you shared the survey with friends or family?





Join us for **CAROLS**  
*on the grass*

Saturday 11th Dec at 5 pm

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What better way to celebrate the hope of Christmas than with carols?

Join us on Saturday 11th December at 5 pm for kids' games and dinner. Carols will begin at 5:30 pm, featuring Willoughby Public School band, Children's Talks, Christmas Photo Booth and caroling.

The evening will finish at 7 pm.  
Cost: \$5 per person. \$15 for a family.

\*Includes dinner and all activities. Bring your own picnic blanket and any additional drinks and snacks.  
Places are limited.

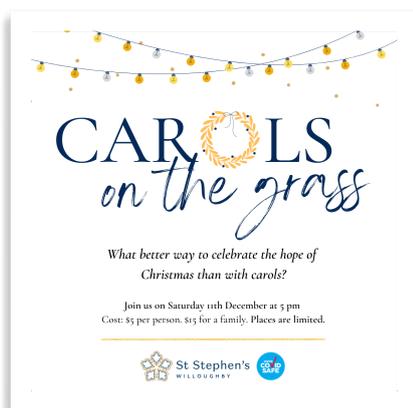
For more information visit: [st-stephens.com.au](http://st-stephens.com.au)

# Notices

## Christmas Services

This year our Christmas Services will be held across 4 times – 4pm & 11pm on Christmas Eve and 7:45am & 9:45am on Christmas Day. The 4pm Service will be an opportunity for families to celebrate Christmas with us. There is no sermon in that service – rather the content will be delivered in all age friendly instalments throughout the service. It will be a great service to invite those who are not used to usual church services. Our 11pm Service will be more contemplative and prepare us for the day of celebration. Our 9:45am Service will include the Come & Sing Choir leading us through well known carols.

Our giving at the Christmas Services will go to supporting Anglican Aid and its work with Instika Community Outreach in South Africa. This is a brilliant way to help support the next generation in South Africa. You can find details [here](#). This has been a ministry we have supported for a number of years through our Christmas giving.



## Carols on the Grass

Carols on the Grass is aimed at connecting the local community with the community at St Stephen's. We provide a great meal to start the night. Kids also receive a kids pack with 3 different crafts which connect to the upfront events and are to be done throughout the night. The music is provided by local groups and it's an opportunity for us to enjoy the chance to sing!

Bringing someone to Carols might be the 1<sup>st</sup> step in their exploration of the Christian faith. We hope they might enjoy the time and consider coming back for Christmas, our Big Questions Series in January or the Alpha Course in February 2022.

## Summer Survey

Our Summer Survey closes this weekend. When our staff team have sent the question out they were struck by how profound their friends and family found the question.

Take a moment and send the survey to a friend. We would love to hear their responses. We will release the topics at our Carols on the Grass event.



## Praise God for youth becoming Christians at Youth Alpha!



Half Past Six has been running the Youth Alpha course this term. About 20 kids have been coming each week to explore the Christian faith. This number includes two new youth who originally joined the group.

Two weeks ago, we gave kids the opportunity to take a Bible home, which many of them excitedly did. Last Friday, we allowed them to put their trust in Jesus and

praise God a number of people did! We give thanks for the way God is at work in our young people!

Please pray for us as we finish off the course that we would be able to continue to encourage new believers in their faith and that they might come to church over Christmas and on Sundays.

### ***End of Year dates***

- 7th December – Playtime Christmas party (last playtime of the year)
- 10th December – HPS Christmas dinner (last HPS of the year)
- 12th December- Sunday Kids and Youth continue
- 19th December – Sunday Kids and Youth Christmas party (during the 9:45 service)

## What's Coming Up

Monday 6th	Online Prayer Meeting 8:30-8:55am - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321   Passcode: 836532
Tuesday 7th	Playtime Christmas Party Email <a href="mailto:pippie@st-stephens.com.au">pippie@st-stephens.com.au</a> for details
Friday 10th	Youth Alpha at Half Past Six. Email <a href="mailto:pippie@st-stephens.com.au">pippie@st-stephens.com.au</a> for details
Saturday 11th	Carols on the Grass from 5-7 pm. <a href="#">Register Now!</a>
Sunday 19th	Sunday Kids and Youth Christmas Party Email <a href="mailto:pippie@st-stephens.com.au">pippie@st-stephens.com.au</a> for details
Sunday 26th	Combined Service at 9:45am

## Our Staff - Contact us!



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