

CHRISTIANITY

A JOYFUL SPIRITUALITY?

THE BOOK OF
GALATIANS
10 OCT - 28 NOV

Wk 8

Sunday 28 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 6:1-10
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayer
- 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. Great to have you visit us today! We hope you find a warm welcome from our regulars, a service that helpfully engages you with the message of Jesus and opportunities to deeper immerse yourself in the community here. Would you take a moment to fill in the Connect Card (scan the QR Code) and let us know your experience?

Today is our final instalment in the Galatians Series. We've spent 8 weeks in total looking at one of the earliest letters the Apostle Paul wrote. Each week we have been reminded of the centrality of the gospel message. The gospel is the simple truth that a world which rejected God has been offered a second chance through the sacrificial death of his Son. The gospel is hope and joy. The gospel is a new start, a better identity, a place in God's family. The gospel is what our hearts are most longing to hear.



As we come to the end of the year – a year filled with uncertainty and hardship – we want to take time to remind our friends of the hope that this gospel offers. Would you invite your friends to the [Carols on the Grass event?](#)



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.

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Isaiah 1:18

(Leader) Gracious God, we have come to see that our lives fall far short of your glory.

(All) Have mercy and forgive us.

(Leader) You have given your Son for us, and poured out your Spirit, yet we fail to return your love with all our heart.

(All) Have mercy and change us.

(Leader) Too often we are selfish and proud, ignoring you and neglecting others.

(All) Have mercy and cleanse us.

(Leader) When we do not truly trust and obey you, we are overwhelmed by self-pity, fear and worry.

(All) Have mercy and deliver us.

(Leader) In Christ we are given a sure hope and secure love, yet we follow the false hopes and desires of this world.

(All) Have mercy and renew us.

(Leader) Father, through the redeeming death of your Son, by your Spirit, and through your word, enable us to follow you with joy.

(All) All this we ask, confident of your faithfulness and love. 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

The Local Church's relevance | [Galatians 6:1-10](#)

1. The family that nurtures us

2. The family life that shapes us

i. Widely applicable principle

ii. Beware the comparison

3. The family that is built on grace

i. Personal Responsibility

ii. The need for grace

iii. The place of the church

Connect Group Study

1. Share times when you have experienced the generous care of a church community

Read Gal 6:1-4

2. What is the family of God responsible for?

3. What does it look like to restore someone gently (see also [Matt 18:15-17](#))?

Read Gal 6:7-9

4. What warnings and encouragements are given to us to meet this call to share burdens?

5. Despite this what can impede us from carrying the burdens of others and restoring them gently?

Read Gal 6:12-16

“There is one burden that we cannot share... and that is our responsibility to God on the day of judgment. On that day you cannot carry my pack and I cannot carry yours.” (John Stott)

6. Why doesn't the law help us with our burdens?

7. How can faith in the Gospel:
a. Release our burdens

b. Help us share the burdens of others?

8. What can you do to make the Gospel more central in your life in light of this series?

Prayer Points

Read the Bible with us!

Read these passages with the following questions in mind:

How does God work circumstances to ensure his message is preached?

Monday - [Acts 20:17-24](#)
Tuesday - [Acts 20:32-38](#)
Wednesday - [Acts 21:1-14](#)
Thursday - [Acts 22:22-29](#)
Friday - [Acts 22:30-23:11](#)

Notices



Summer Survey

How do you explore faith with someone who you are not sure is interested? You could simply launch into the topic. However, most of our friends don't operate like that. For people to value our opinion, we must value theirs. We must be willing to hear their opinion and reflect on their assumptions.

Our Summer Survey is a chance for us to hear what our friends think about faith and life. Simply share the

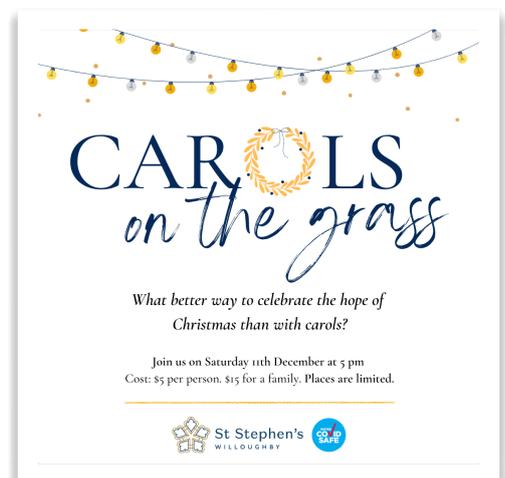
question with them by sending them our [web link](#). We would love to hear their responses. The 4 most prevalent will be the basis of series in January. The question may also prompt a great conversation between you and your friends.

Carols on the Grass

Carols on the Grass is back for its 2nd year. Last was a huge success – we had a great family meal, brilliant entertainment from upfront, kids packs which connected to the whole program and a relaxed atmosphere which allowed families, friends, neighbours to relax after the stresses of COVID.

This year we are following a similar format. Our entertainment will include the Willoughby Public School Band and Come & Sing Community Choir. Our St Stephen's musicians will also be leading us. In the event of rain we will still run the program in the church and chapel hall. Who can you bring along? Pack a rug, some extra nibbles & drinks and come enjoy the meal we provide.

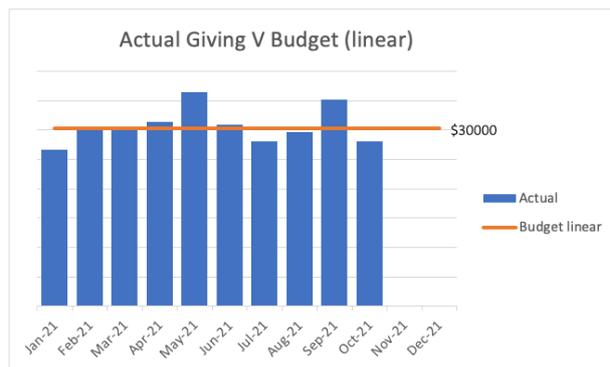
[Registration](#) is required because our numbers are limited. We have already sold 80 tickets in the 1st week! You can also [Volunteer](#) to help.



Financial Update

Thank you to those who continue to support the ministry of our church. The wonderful outreach over Christmas, the opportunities to share in great church family moments like our lunch last week and the chance to gift bibles to our year 6 SRE students are all opportunities funded by our church members' generosity.

If you would like to contribute to Matt's Straw's gift but have not yet had a chance please visit our 'Give' page on the website and use the ref: Straw.



Staffing Changes for 2022

A new era of staffing is upon us after the farewell to the Straws last week. Ed Happer our current student minister will also be finishing his training with us on December 26 and moving to Randwick Anglican. Ed is preaching on Sunday 5 & 26 December.

Gordon Luk and his wife Leanne (kids Jonathan and Naomi) will join us on 23 January 2022. Gordon is our new Outreach and Sunday Services Minister. In addition, we are also excited to welcome two new Student Ministers to our church. Micah & Soph Beel will be joining us in mid January 2022. Micah will be in 3rd year at Moore College. Sam Carless will also be joining us in early 2022. Sam is going into 1st year at Moore College. We look forward to welcoming them and supporting them in their training.

Working Bee - 4th of December

Several jobs need attention. Everyone's help would be greatly appreciated! Let's make our church a welcoming place for the friends we are bringing to 'Carols on the Grass. We start at 8:00am and go up to midday. Jobs can be done on the day or in the lead up - see [Phil McLeod](#) (9:45am Service) for more details.



What's Coming Up

Monday 29th	Online Prayer Meeting 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532
Tuesday 30th	Playtime - 9:30am to 11:30am Email pippie@st-stephens.com.au for details — December —
Friday 3rd	Youth Alpha at Half Past Six. Email pippie@st-stephens.com.au for details
Saturday 4th	Working Bee - contact Phil McLeod
Tuesday 7th	Playtime, end of year get together
Saturday 11th	Carols on the Grass from 5-7 pm. Register Now!
Sunday 26th	Combined Service at 9:45am

Our Staff - Contact us!



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