

# CHRISTIANITY

A JOYFUL SPIRITUALITY?

THE BOOK OF  
GALATIANS  
10 OCT - 28 NOV

Wk 4

Sunday 31 October 2021

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

TODAY'S  
9:45<sup>AM</sup>  
SERVICE:

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
Galatians 3:1-14
- 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 join us for our online services this week. If you are new or someone has recommended you join us we would love to hear from you. You can contact us through the [electronic connect card](#). (available via the QR Code on pews)

We're back! Actually last week we wanted to write on our street sign "We're back, baby!" such was our excitement. We decided it may not convey excitement so we left off the last bit.

Meeting with other believers is fundamental to a Christian's life. Church is not an extra-curricular activity, it isn't dependent on membership fees and it does not come as a way to develop our sense of self. We come together to hear from God, worship God and encourage each other because of what Christ has already done. Our whole life together is shaped by the gracious work of Christ.

As we meet, after many months apart, let us consider how we might spur each other on to love and good deeds. How can we help each other set our hearts and minds on Christ? How can we instil gospel hope in our community?



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.

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:5-6, 9

## Confession Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
you have loved us with an everlasting love,  
but we have gone our own way,  
and rejected your will for our lives.  
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.  
For the sake of your Son who died for us,  
forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.  
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you,  
and to please you in every way;  
through 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 and 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

Faith and Works | [Galatians 3:1-14](#)

1. Believe the Gospel

2. Avoid Legalism

3. See the Beauty

## Connect Group Study

1. Consider one person whose approval you long for. What steps do you go through to attain that approval?

### Read Galatians 3:1-14

2. Why is Paul frustrated with the Galatians?

3. According to vv. 2-3, what mistakes are the Galatians making?

4. What two things does Paul point to, in order to rebalance the Galatian's faith?

vv. 2-5	vv. 6-9

## Read Genesis 15:1-6

5. What do we learn about faith and God's blessings according to this passage and Paul's teaching in Galatians?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Those who are Christians in the group: share how you came to faith. How does it reflect Paul's teaching?

## Consider Paul's words in vv. 13-14:

- a. Why is the approval of God different to the approval we seek from others?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Shape a prayer around the truths in these verses and pray together.

## Prayer Points

## Read the Bible with us!

Why can we have courage even when sharing our faith is challenging?

Monday - [Acts 6:1-7](#)  
Tuesday - [Acts 7:51-60](#)  
Wednesday - [Acts 8:26-40](#)  
Thursday - [Acts 9:19b-31](#)  
Friday - [Acts 9:32-43](#)

# Notices

## Simply Christianity

Last Tuesday Night some 40 guests, nine of whom were friends not from church joined via zoom. John Dickson’s presentation was excellent: engaging, compelling and very professionally presented. The Q and A time was well received and showed us just how relevant the material was to those exploring faith. Some people wished they had asked more of their friends to come. We will definitely get John back in the future, don’t miss that opportunity. Also continue to pray for those signed up for the rest of the course. Here’s one testimonial from the night:

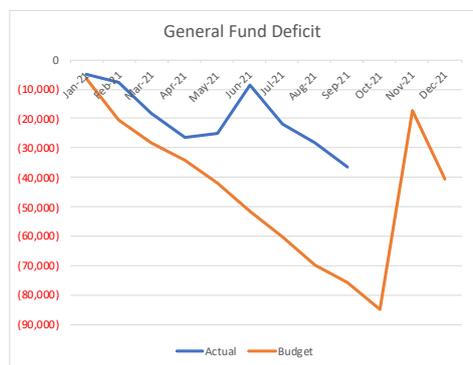
“John Dickson has such a wonderful way of not being in people’s faces, just stating what can and can’t be said - a lovely approach from such a respected academic, and a great way for people to explore Christianity.”

## Birth of Danielle Huang

We are excited to announce that the St. Stephen’s family has a new addition. Lu (9:45 am Service) gave birth to a beautiful healthy boy on the 12th of October. Mum and bub are doing well.



## Finances update for September



Recently we were contacted by the family of Shirley Walker to let us know Shirley had passed away and left a gift to the church. We are thankful for her generosity. The Wardens and the Parish Council will consider the best way to utilise that bequest to serve the mission of St Stephen’s.

As always, we are thankful for those who support the ministry of our church. If you would like to give you can either use the box near the exit door or the online portal on our website.

## Toys 'n' Tucker

Toys 'n' Tucker is an initiative of Anglicare Sydney. They aim to share the joy of Christmas with the less fortunate. Toys 'n' Tucker collects non-perishable foods, toiletry items, or new toys from Church and other organisations and delivers hampers to people's doorstep.



Toys 'n' Tucker looks a bit different this year. They have moved online. How will it work?

1. Purchase items on the Toys 'n' Tucker [Shop page](#)
2. Anglicare will buy those items at wholesale prices
3. Hampers will be packed at our Villawood Warehouse
4. Our vans will deliver hampers straight to peoples' doors

## Kids and Youth

We are really looking forward to being back in person! On Sunday all kids and youth programs will be running as usual. With a few minor tweaks:

1. Sunday Kids and Youth programs have new names!

Creche is now Gumnuts,

Kidzone Classes:

Gum leaves (K-2) and

Bluegums (3-6),

Switch is now Junior High Bible Study

2. Parents are asked to please sign their children out after the programs have finished.
3. We are taking extra precautions in order to minimise risk for our young people. Precautions include ensuring all leaders are vaccinated, increasing ventilation, and maintaining physical distancing where possible. For more information check out our covid safety plan/[video](#).

For more information about any of these changes please contact Pippie at [pippie@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:pippie@st-stephens.com.au)

## What's Coming Up

Sunday 31st	Sunday Services Resume. — November —
Monday 1st	Online Prayer Meeting 8:30-8:55am - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321   Passcode: 836532
Tuesday 2nd	Simply Christianity - <a href="mailto:matt@st-stephens.com.au">matt@st-stephens.com.au</a>
Friday 5th	Youth Alpha at Half Past Six is onsite Email <a href="mailto:pippie@st-stephens.com.au">pippie@st-stephens.com.au</a> for details
Saturday 6th	Prayer Day, Chapel Hall 8:30am - 10:00am
Sunday 7th	Gift Day
Sunday 21st	Straw Farewell, Registration and Vaccination Required.

## Our Staff - Contact us!



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