

H O P E

Wk 3

Sunday 19 December 2021

Our 9:45 is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels. If you don't wish to feature on our stream, please occupy the pews towards the back.

**TODAY'S
9:45^{AM}
SERVICE:**

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[Deut 31:9-18](#) &
[John 1:1-18](#)
- 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 and Merry Christmas. As we draw near to the Christmas weekend we're glad to have you with us. We hope this Sunday's worship fills your hearts with joy and thanksgiving for all God has done for us. We would love to hear from you so please take a moment and fill in the Connect Card using the QR Code.

Today we spend time preparing ourselves for the Christmas celebrations. In many circles that would involve putting up Christmas trees, decorations, preparing food and purchasing gifts. All of these are great ways to celebrate Christmas.



However, to prepare ourselves for Christmas is to return to the primary story. We return to the account of Jesus's birth, his entry into the world. To prepare for Christmas we remind ourselves that the Word became flesh, the second person of the Trinity – the Son of God – left his divine home and took up residence in the world he made. To prepare for Christmas is to remind our hearts of God's outlandish grace.



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

Most merciful God,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We confess that we have wandered from your way:
we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us:
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of the Spirit
that we may live as disciples of Christ.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. 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

Grace which fuels celebration | [Deut 31:9-18](#) & [John 1:1-18](#)

1. Hints of Grace

2. Limitations of the Law

3. The fullness of grace from Jesus

Christmas Services

H O P E



Christmas Eve

4 pm - A service for the whole family

11 pm - Candlelight lessons and carols

Christmas Day

7:45 am - Holy Communion

9:45 am - All Ages Service

Big Questions of life

January 9

Does  tolerance &  judgment =   ?

January 16

Does a  paced life =   ?

January 23

Does a more  life =   ?

January 30

Does  between nations =   ?

Livestream @9:45am
or in-person
(7:45am, 9:45am, 5:30pm)



Our 5:30pm service
includes live Q&A on
any topic

Notices

Christmas Services

This Christmas we have 4 services that aim to make Church as accessible as possible to our family, neighbours and friends. Each service approaches Christmas from a different style but returns to the same central message found in the Bible.

We hope you can make one of our services. We also hope you will bring a friend or family member along with you. Our 4pm Christmas Eve Service has been planned and prepared to be as accessible as possible to children and their families. It's short, engaging and we have a Sausage Sizzle after which makes dinner on Christmas Eve easier. Our 11pm Service is a chance for the busy among us to pause and reflect on Christmas in the beautiful ambience of our church building. The 7:45am Service is a traditional Anglican service while our 9:45am Service will have bits for all groups.

Let us use this time of celebration to bring our friends and family to the God we know and love.

Big Questions of Life Series – Jan 2022

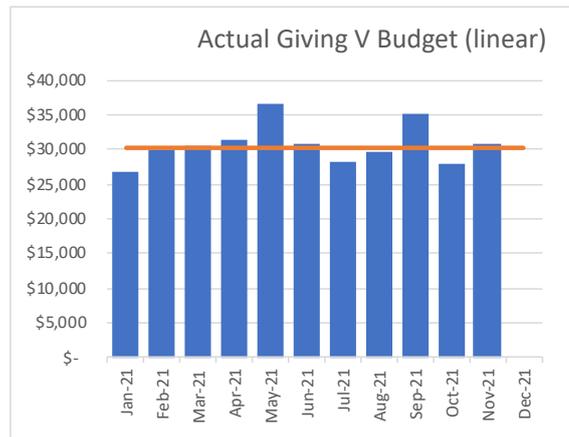
From 9 January we will run a four week series on Sundays exploring the Big Questions of Life. Each week is a question resulting from our Summer Survey undertaken earlier in the year.

David Robertson is our 1st speaker. He is a well-known apologist and writer. David will address the question: “Does more tolerance and less judgment equal a better world?” At our 5:30pm Service we will continue to hold our Q&A time. We encourage you to attend that as well – David is an engaging speaker, especially in the Q&A setting.

In week 2 Prash will speak in response to the question “Does a slower paced life equal a better world?” In week 3 John Lavender, who many of us heard speak on evangelism, will speak in response to the question “Does a more environmentally sustainable life equal a better world?” Finally, Glenn Davies will conclude the series by responding to the question “Does peace between nations equal a better world?”

Financial Update

Thank you to those who have continued to support the ministry of our church. Our November Gift day was generously supported by members of the parish and we were able to meet our target – thank you!



A reminder for those who committed to the 555 giving campaign earlier this year to increase your giving by 5% in the New Year. As we look toward 2022 we are excited about the possibilities. The generosity of the parish allows us to launch into new ministry opportunities.

Summer Series for Kids!

Our Sunday Kids (K-6) will be exploring life's Big questions alongside the adults at the 9:45am Service. This year the theme is 'Secret agents'. Kids will follow the clues to solve the case of 'Who is Jesus?'. This is a great outreach opportunity as there is something to engage the whole family. Who can you bring along?

Kid's Summer Series Secret Agent

Solving the case of life's **BIG** Questions
This summer Sunday Kids are trying to solve the case of **Who is Jesus?**

Join our detectives as they search for clues, and work out who the most famous man in history really is. Including kids games, activities, talks, and bible time.

When: Sunday 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
January

Time: 9:45-11am

Where: St Stephen's Willoughby

Cost: FREE



All leaders have child protection training.
For more information email children@st-stephens.com.au

What's Coming Up

Christmas Eve	4pm - A Service for the whole family 11pm - Candle light lessons and Carols
Christmas Day	7:45am - Holy Communion Service 9:45am - All Ages Service
Sunday 26th & 2nd	Combined Service at 9:45am — January —
Sunday 9th	Big Question Series begins
Sunday 16th	Lunar New Year Flyer Drop
Wednesday 19th	LiT Camp begins

Our Staff - Contact us!



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