



One-off week

Sunday 06 February 2022

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
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[Romans 12:1-8](#)
- Sermon
- Song
- Responding to God's word
- 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. We are glad to have you with us. We would love to hear from you – feel free to use the QR code to access our online Connect Card.



This Sunday, we take a moment to reflect on our hope and desires as a church. We hope that our life as a community is deliberately and clearly impacted by the Bible. We believe it is God's message to us – he is speaking through it. We believe his message is worthwhile and trustworthy, and we want to live in line with it. Our vision statement says - **We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse, and large by the gracious work of Christ.** We've adopted those words because we believe they reflect a vision of the ultimate universal church God is building. We have also adopted these words because while we want to be part of his work, we recognise it relies on God graciously working.

We hope you will join us in working and serving for the Lord this coming year. Please join us for lunch after to hear share and celebrate with us. We wait with excitement to see what God might do.



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 it is 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

The act of self-giving | Romans 12:1-8

1. The call to give yourself

2. The voices that silence the call

From outside

From within

3. Viewing the call through fresh eyes

Connect Group Notes

1. Why do people serve? Can it ever be purely altruistic?

Read Romans 12:1-8

2. What motivates service according to Paul? Why is this type of servant capable of humility?

3. What does service look like?

4. What can distract us?

5. How can a clearer view of God's mercy revitalise our service?

6. What might it look like to give yourself to God's people this year?



St Stephen's Willoughby
invites you to

2022

Lunar New Year Dinner

AND

ALPHA:

a chance to explore faith and life
through the 1st instalment of the
world renowned Alpha Course



WED FEB 9, 2022 FROM 7-9:30PM
\$ 25 PER HEAD
3 COURSE MEAL DRINKS INCL.



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

SCAN TO REGISTER



Notices

Vision Sunday - 6th Feb 2022

Today's Vision Sunday is an opportunity to gather in a longer and meaningful way together at the start of the year.

The primary focus of this Sunday will be calling every St Stephen's member into an area of service. We hope to share the responsibility and privilege of serving on Sundays with more people in our church. At present most service is concentrated in 35% of our congregation. Service is a privilege because we help facilitate another person's experience of the gospel – that is we get to make the message of Jesus more accessible to them. Service is also a privilege because as we serve, our faith and trust in God can also grow. If you are interested in serving complete the form with the Serving at St Stephen's Booklet.



Connect Groups - Restarting.



Our Connect Groups are restarting this week. Most groups will restart at the same time and location as last year. Connect Group Leaders will meet with Prash on Sunday 13 Feb to discuss some possible changes to the ministry. Following that meeting members in Connect Groups will have the opportunity to refresh their group. Some groups will stay the same, others will be mixed up and new groups formed. We

hope this will allow newer members to join and older members to enjoy meeting new people. We will also articulate the place of our midweek groups in our overall church life.

If you are not in a Connect Group at present but would like to consider joining one please email Prash (prash@st-stephens.com.au) to express interest and hear more.

Kids and Youth News!

Playtime starts Tuesday, 8th Feb

Playtime is for 0-5-year-olds and their carers. We meet Tuesday 9:30-11:15 am. The kids enjoy games, stories, crafts, and free play while you enjoy a cuppa and time to spend with other parents. It is a wonderful, inclusive group. Who can you bring along?



Crafternoon Tuesday, 15th Feb

Come and help us prepare the craft for our kids and youth ministries. Having the craft prepared is so helpful as it frees up the kid's leaders to spend more time preparing the biblical content of the lesson. We would appreciate your help! You don't need any particular craft skills. If you can cut, glue or stick we can put you to good use!

When: Tuesday 15th February, Time: 12:30-2:30, Where: Hainsworth Hall.

PTC Course - Starting soon!

“PTC is an excellent way to improve your knowledge of the Bible. The course improves your understanding of God’s purposes for you and the world.” - Glenn Davies (Fmr. Archbishop, lecturer at Moore, and member of our 9:45am Service). Glenn will be teaching the course. The course has a registration fee for materials. It will run on Sundays from 3-4:30pm in the Chapel Hall – starting on Sunday 13 February. [Register Now!](#)

Lunar New Year Dinner

What can you expect? Lunar New Year Dinner is an opportunity to celebrate the Lunar New Year with everyone in our community (not just the Chinese!). You can build relationships and have conversations with them about life and faith. Share with them the beautiful gospel of Jesus over some great Chinese food. Can you bring someone along? [Book](#) your seats if you can! Also, please pray for the event and the attendees.



What's Coming Up

Sunday 6th	Vision Sunday (including lunch and dinner)
Monday 7th	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532
Tuesday 8th	Playtime Starts
Wednesday 9th	Lunar New Year Dinner 2022 - Register here
Sunday 13th	PTC Course Starts - Book your seat!
Sunday 13th	Connect Group Leaders meeting
Tuesday 15th	Crafternoon
Sunday 27th	New Members Morning Tea.

Our Staff - Contact us!



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