



Wk 1

Sunday 5 June 2022

Our 9:45am service 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
9:45AM
SERVICE:

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're so glad to have you with us. A community gathered to hear from God is a wonderful blessing. We think there really is no better place to be!

This booklet contains lots of helpful information. It has prayers you might want to use while you are observing the service. It has plenty of info on the various things happening in our church life. It has contact details for our staff. We would love to hear from you. Use the QR code to contact us and respond to anything that happened in the service, you find in this booklet or what is in your heart. Regulars and visitors will find ways to use the connect card (hard copy or QR code).



- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
[Genesis 1:1-2:3](#)
(Bible p.1)
- Sermon
- Interview
- Prayer
- Communion
- Song
- Conclusion

If you are a visitor to our service please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
Account Number:
00490436

Today we also get to meet one of our link missionaries - David Blackman. David works with Wycliffe. Wycliffe have a desire for people of all cultures and nations to have access to the bible in their own language. He, like our other link missionaries, has chosen to forgo much in order to serve God and love others. We hope you are encouraged!



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 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

In the beginning | Passage: [Genesis 1:1-2:3](#)

A difficult story to listen to...

1. Who is God?
 1. A God with absolute power over His creation.

2. A God of order, not chaos

2. Who are we?
 1. Made in God's image

2. With dignity and worth

3. Looking for why we exist?

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. The Bible's story of creation can be quite tricky to accept in our world right now. Which of the following options best describes your reaction to that statement and discuss why? (a) I have no issues with accepting Genesis 1 (b) I have lots of questions and find it hard to accept (c) I find it tricky but I don't think it matters that much to affect my Christian faith (d) Other?

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3

Getting your head around the passage:

Use as many questions as you need to ensure you understand the passage's contents.

1. What repeated phrases can you see in the passage?
2. What order can you see in what God creates on each day?
3. What genre do you think this piece of literature is?
4. How do you think this passage fits in with the rest of Genesis (notice the repeated phrase in Genesis 2:4, 5:1, 10:1, 11:27, 25:12, 25:19, 36:1, 37:2)?

2. What is the main question Genesis 1:1-2:3 is answering?
3. What picture of God does it paint for you? How does this picture differ from other views of God you have heard (both contemporary or ancient)?

4. What does this passage say about us as humans? How does it compare with what our world says?
5. Where are you tempted to look for your worth, dignity and purpose in life? How does knowing that you are created by this God speak into those temptations?



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your group leader.

1. Who in your life would benefit from coming to church?
2. What has stopped you from inviting people in the past? Pray for these people.

Prayer

1. Praise God for his awesome creation and for giving us worth and value and purpose as His image-bearers.
2. Ask God that He would help us speak about this to our friends who need to know their creator.

Read the Bible with

us!

1. What does this passage say about God?
2. What does this passage say about me?
3. How does this correct what the world says about me and about God?

Monday - [Genesis 1:1-2:3](#)
Tuesday - [Genesis 2:4-25](#)
Wednesday - [Job 28:1-41](#)
Thursday - [Psalm 8](#)
Friday - [Colossians 1:15-20](#)

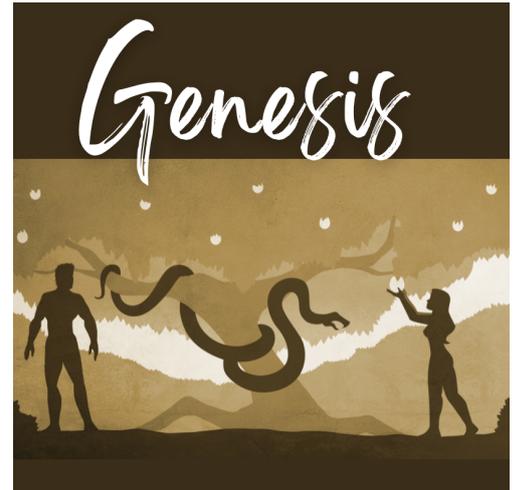
Notices

The New Sermon Series

We're starting a new sermon series looking at the first book of the Bible, Genesis.

Genesis tells the story of our origins, and it acts like a mirror reflecting on ourselves: this is the story of who we really are. Yet Genesis also introduces us to the main character of the Bible, God. It is a story about God and how He continues to be involved with His creation. Even though we, the masterpiece of His creation, chose to rebel against Him.

Genesis 1-11 is foundational to the Christian worldview and the gospel. Our hope is that we will come to know not just who we really are as humans, but we will also come to know our Creator God.



Hope Explored Update!

We had our final week of the Hope Explored course on Wednesday. All the guests were able to reflect on what they had learned. The questions they still had, and what was the next step on their journey in exploring the Christian faith. On the night, we looked at what it means to be a Christian. It was about accepting Jesus as the ruler of your life. We trust in His death and resurrection for our forgiveness. Hope Explored has been a helpful space for all our guests to ask their questions and to hear from the Bible about the real hope on offer through Jesus's death and resurrection.

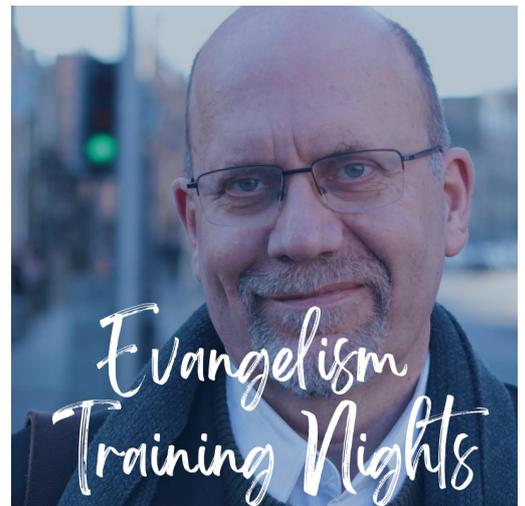
Prayer Mornings

Each week we meet online to pray for people within our church, the local community and the world. You can find the links on the back of this booklet in the calendar. Anyone is welcome to join us in our prayer time. Mondays and Saturdays are both great times of encouragement. God longs to hear the prayers of his children. We are encouraged to bring each other's needs before God and find his comfort, his provision and his peace. Join us!



Evangelism Training Nights

The gospel calls us to be a church on mission—we aren't a cruise ship (where we invite people to come on board to have a good time), we're a lifeboat: people saved for judgment and eternal death! This is why one of our mission priorities is **Bringing Friends to Faith**. We want to be encouraged to keep persevering in this mission. To help us we are running two Evangelism Training nights with David Robertson: Wed 8 and 15 June, 7-9pm. \$10 for dinner if needed. Register [here](#).



Newish Morning Tea Update

This month's Newish Morning Tea welcomed three new families that have recently become a part of our Church community. We talked about the kids and youth programs at St. Stephen's and a bit about the history of the Church. We look at the best way forward and how they can get on board. We invited our newish members to attend our Wednesday evening courses, especially if they had questions to ask questions about Christianity.



Each month we have had new or newish people come to Church. We are so thankful that God is bringing visitors to our community. Playtime, SRE, and personal invitation are some of the ways that people hear about us. It is all a part of bringing our friends to faith, something we are all working towards together. Watch this space to get more information about a Membership course, which is coming soon.

Kids at Square One Camp

This weekend five kids in years 3-6 are away on square one camp. They are looking at the topic 'The cross, the tomb and me'. Please pray that kids would grow in their devotion to God's word and be struck by the good news of Jesus death and resurrection.

What's Coming Up

Monday 6th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - 8:45am to 9:15am Zoom Link Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200 Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 7th	Playtime Week
Wednesday 8th	Evangelism Training Night - 1
Friday 9th	Half Past Six.
Saturday 10th	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - Zoom Link Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321 Passcode: 836532
Wednesday 15th	Evangelism Training Night - 2
Sunday 26th	Membership Course - 1pm to 4pm with lunch

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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