

# VISION SERIES 2022

## Our future together



Wk 3

Sunday 14 August 2022

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

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
[Luke 15:1-10](#)  
(Bible p.1047)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayer
- 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

*Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels. Please occupy the pews towards the back if you don't wish to feature on our stream.*

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're glad to have you join us. The opportunity to meet with other followers of Jesus, hear the Bible read and explained, join together in song and prayer and encourage each other has been a privilege and joy treasured for thousands of years. We would like to hear from you. So please utilise the Connect Card (an electronic version is accessible through the QR code).



Today is week three of our Vision Series. We are reflecting on our purpose, place and priorities as God's people in Willoughby, Artarmon and Chatswood. God has not placed us here by accident. He has sent us to this place to do his work. What is his will? To introduce people to Jesus. To seek out the lost, the lonely, those far from God and to point them to the answers Jesus provides and the consolation of God's love. It is at the heart of who we are.

We hope you want to join in this venture God has laid before us. What could be better than introducing someone to Jesus, to life, hope, purpose and the love of God?



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.

### A Prayer of Confession

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

<sup>6</sup>“The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup>maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.

Exodus 34:6-7a

### The 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 for ever.  
Amen.

# Sermon Notes

The God who seeks us out | Passage: [Luke 15:1-10](#)

1. The true state of the world (and us).

2. Our response?

a. Anger or Apathy



25%

Reaching those who do not attend church

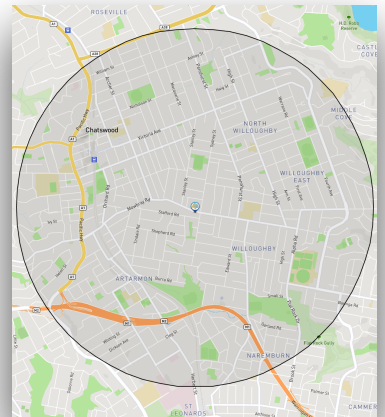


26%

Encouraging people here to share their faith and invite others

b. Missional Characteristic #2 - Bringing friends to faith

“Every street within two km of our church has one of our member’s building friendships, serving and sharing the gospel with their neighbours.”



3. God’s response.

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. Consider your neighbour. How do they see the world? How do they think God should deal with the world?

## Read Luke 15:1-10

### Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. What words and phrases repeat?
  2. What is common in the two stories?
  3. Who is Jesus telling the stories to? How does that impact your reading?
  4. How does the crowd respond to Jesus's teachings?
- 
2. The Greek word for 'lost' can also mean 'destroy, ruin, cut off'. How willing are you to say the whole world is 'lost'? Why/why not?
- 
3. What, in our life and experience, testifies to our 'lostness' prior to coming to faith?

4. What is the hope of these parables?

5. How do these parables encourage us to be active in bringing our friends to faith?

6. What do you need to do?



### **GaP Group Reflection**

**Watch the video provided to your group leader.**

1. How can we better encourage you to share your faith? Pass this on to Prash or Gordon.
2. What encouraging stories of faith sharing have you heard recently?

## **Prayer**

1. Ask God to give you the courage to share your life and faith with others.
2. Pray for a friend who you hope God would seek out through you.

## **Read the Bible with us!**

1. How do these teaching/warnings of Jesus encourage us to share our faith?
2. Who can you pray for today?

Monday - [Luke 14:15-24](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 15:1-7](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 15:8-10](#)

Thursday - [Luke 15:11-32](#)

Friday - [Luke 16:19-31](#)

# Notices

## Vision Month Week - 3

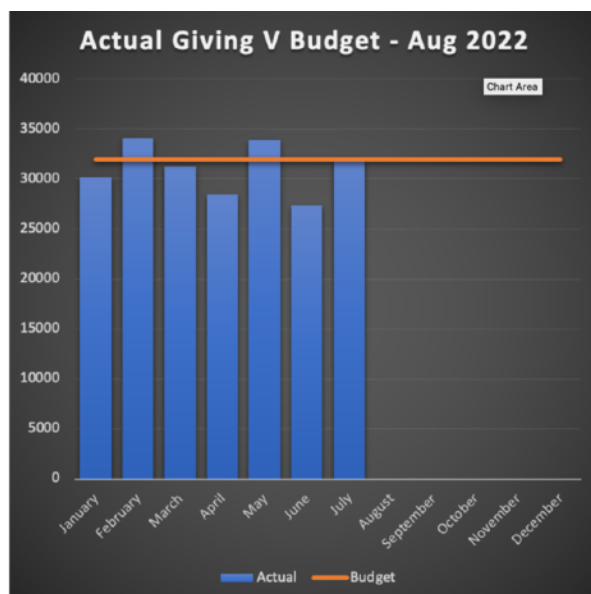
We have identified four strategic pieces to our church's ministry life. These are four things we believe should be a priority in our life if we want to become the church we believe God wants in this part of Sydney. One of these pieces is **Outreach**: getting as many people as possible on a clear accessible pathway that leads them on the journey to faith. We know it takes time for people to understand the Christian faith. Our friends and family need to ask questions, explore doubts, see real Christian lives in action and have a profound work of the Holy Spirit in their life. Our pathway of events, courses, Sunday services and one-to-one bible reading are designed to help people walk this path. Who can you bring along on this pathway?

## Simply Christianity - 19th Aug

Our Dumpling Making Night on Friday was great fun! Many thanks to all who helped out. This Friday night, (19 August) from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, is the start of our Simply Christianity course. To kick things off, we will enjoy some Korean Fried Chicken! Christianity can be perplexing. Simply Christianity helpfully navigates us through this by starting with the question upon which the whole Christian faith stands: Who is Jesus? Simply Christianity is a modern guide to an ancient faith. Whether you're personally exploring faith or you are interested in what Christianity is historically about. Let us know you're coming at [st-stephens.com.au/thiswinter](http://st-stephens.com.au/thiswinter)

## Finance

Thank you to the generous members of our church family who continue to support the ministry here. Everything we do and experience as a church is a product of the generosity of St Stephen's people. If you are a regular here at St Stephen's, we encourage you to give via online banking in a regular way to help us budget and continue the exciting ministry life of our church. You can find more details on our giving by using the 'Give' page on our website.





## Launch meeting for a fresh evening Service

This Sunday afternoon, we are holding our 1st Dreaming and Planning meeting as we seek to launch a fresh gospel community. There are over 60,000 people within two km of our church. Most of these people do not know Jesus. We want to meet them and point them to Christ. As part of this, we want to start something fresh. There is always risk involved in a new venture. We seek to face the risks and challenges head-on as we embrace God and his promises. We are looking to build a launch team of 50 godly women and men. Will you join us? If you are interested. We would love to see you at our dreaming and planning meetings later today: 3:30pm in the Chapel Hall.



## Newish Morning Tea next week!

We aim to make St. Stephen's accessible to everyone, especially if you are new. We know there are still things you might not know or would like more information about church life. Newish Morning Teas' are a space where you hear an outline of our church life & structures and work out how best to find your home here. It runs once a month for ½ an hour after 9:45am service in the Office. The food and company are great too! You can talk to Jill after the service or send her an email at [jill@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:jill@st-stephens.com.au).



## Bring Sunday - 21st Aug

Sunday (21st August) is *Bring a Friend to Church* week. It is a chance for kids to bring their non-Christian friends to church; so they can hear about Jesus. We are learning about God's power to rescue whilst decorating cupcakes. Our prayer is that we will have eight new families come to church. Please pray for our kids as they invite their friends. Pray that many would say, 'yes' and that they would come to know Jesus. As a congregation, can we be on the lookout for new families next week and be ready to welcome them?

## What's Coming Up

Monday 15th	Weekly Prayer Meeting - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200   Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 16th	Playtime - Week 3 - <a href="#">Register</a>
Friday 19th	Half Past Six - Week 2. Simply Christianity - Week 1.
Saturday 20th	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321   Passcode: 836532
Sunday 21st	Newish Morning Tea - After 9:45am service in the office.
Sunday 28th	Celebration Brunch & Dinner + Mission Gift Day

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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