

# VISION SERIES 2022

Our future together



Wk 4

Sunday 21 August 2022

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

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:  
[2 Timothy 3:10-17](#)  
(Bible p.1199)
- Sermon
- 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! It's great to have you join us. We hope you enjoy the service. We would love to hear your reflections. You can fill out the Connect Card (inside or accessible via the QR Code) to send us your thoughts. We would also love to meet you personally so do say hi to one of the staff or the upfront team.



As you look around this building you will hopefully see lots of people from different backgrounds, cultures and generations. The church of God is open to all. Faith is not contingent on a level of emotional or physical maturity, it's not contingent on life experience or cultural background. God longs for people to come to him with child-like faith. This must, therefore, include children. We love having children in our church because they are the very people Jesus enjoyed being around. Children are not the future of God's church – they are the now. More than this, children often provide us with the model for adult faith – a simple yet sincere reliance and dependence on Christ.

If you are a young person if you've brought young people to church – welcome!  
We are so glad to have young people in our midst.



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

Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart,  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

<sup>1</sup>My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup>He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1b-2

## 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

What young people need most | Passage: [2 Timothy 3:10-17](#)

1. The Challenge of Faith

2. The Foundation of Faith

3. The benefit of Faith

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Questions

1. What can distract or even undermine faith in Jesus?

## Read 2 Tim 3:10-17

### Getting your head around the passage:

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

1. How does Paul characterise his life?
2. What sobering truths does Paul give Timothy about the Christian life?
3. What solutions does he offer to develop enduring faith?
4. How does he describe the Bible?
5. What is the Bible useful for?

2. How can hardship and suffering undermine young faith? What false messages might they believe that are being challenged?

“... every time one deals with the word of God one is dealing with the God whose word it is. The word of God is not some extraneous object out there for us to squeeze to our liking; rather it is always warm with the breath of God's own mouth.” (Dale Ralph Davis)

3. Do you think of the Bible as ‘God-breathed’? How might that impact the way we read the Bible?

4. What alternate ways of thinking of the Bible do people employ?  
How can that impact us when times get tough?
5. What are the benefits of being devoted to God's word?
6. How can you encourage each other in your devotion to God's word?



### **GaP Group Reflection**

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

1. What has held you back from serving/supporting in children's ministry?
2. How can you support the kids & youth ministries of St Stephen's?

## **Prayer**

1. Pray God would give you a deeper appreciation of his word.
2. Pray God would flood our kids and youth ministries with young people who can explore God's word and come to love him through it.

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

1. Consider these extracts from Psalm 119. What is good about God's word? What are you called to do in response?
2. Pray God would grow your devotion to his word.

Monday - [Ps 119:33-40](#)  
Tuesday - [Ps 119:41-48](#)  
Wednesday - [Ps 119:57-64](#)  
Thursday - [Ps 119:65-72](#)  
Friday - [Ps 119:89-96](#)

# Notices

## Vision Series Week Four

This is week four of our Vision Series. In this week's instalment, we focus on the place of young people in our church. Over the past two and a half years, we have made a concerted effort to centre kids and youth in our church life. We have aimed to place them on a pathway that introduces and develops biblical faith. We have sought to do this from the youngest of ages. No child is too young to hear about Jesus. We have also sought to reinforce the importance of SRE in our ministry life. We are currently two SRE teachers short. Have you considered this ministry? Chat with Pippie for more details.

## Mission Gift Day and Celebration Sunday

Next Sunday is the final Sunday of our Vision Month. We will spend time focussing on our life together and how that might be beautified by the gospel. To help us do this we have several ways for you to participate:

1. **Mission Gift Day:** Currently, our budget sets aside 6% of our giving to support our link missionaries (people who bring the gospel to other people groups). To supplement our giving, we encourage church members to give a one-off gift to our link missionaries. We collect this one-off gift next Sunday and through bank transfer in the ensuing weeks. We hope to raise **\$20,000**. You can give using our 'Give' page on the website or bank transfer (details on the front cover). Use "MissionGift" in your payment ref.
2. **Thanksgiving and Prayer:** As a way of recognising that God is the source of all good things, we want to finish our services next Sunday with a time of thanksgiving. People will have a chance to share what they are thankful for, and we will spend time in prayer.
3. **Celebration Brunch or Dinner:** Our morning services will combine and run at 9:45am on Sunday 28th. Following the morning service, we will celebrate over brunch. We encourage you to remain and enjoy the yummy brunch together. Our usual morning services will resume the following week. In the evening we will hold a celebration dinner after our 5:30pm Service. Both meals are free.

## Kids and Youth @ St. Stephen's

**Half Past Six Youth Group:** At HPS, we play games, hang out, have fun, learn about Jesus, and eat food. This term, we will see how God loves and saves rag-tag outsiders, loners and misfits. This week we are doing trivia and eating 2-minute noodles. When: Fridays (during the term). Time: 6:30-8:30pm. Who: Years 5-9.

**Playtime:** Playtime is a playgroup for 0-5 years old's and their carers. We meet on Tuesday 9:30-11:30 am. Our program includes music, craft, free play and morning tea for adults. Everyone is welcome.

## Dumpling Making Night and Simply Christianity Wk. 1



It was so exciting to see the Chapel Hall packed for the Dumpling Making Night with ninety adults having a taster of Simply Christianity and forty kids and youth having a taster of our kids and youth programs (HPS youth group). Most were friends or family brought by someone from St. Stephen's, and some of them continued to explore faith in Jesus by coming along to Simply Christianity. The Simply Christianity

course is helpful for anyone exploring the Christian faith. It answers the question: who is the historical Jesus, and what does the Bible claim about Him? You can still join for week two.

## Jam with our music team?

Are you able to play a musical instrument or sing? Do you feel a bit nervous to join our music team? Micah is planning to hold semi-regular jam sessions on Sundays after morning tea. It is for anyone to join and play with our regular musicians. Come and see what it is like and see that the musical bar isn't as high as you might think! One person said I hadn't played the piano for seven years, but Micah coached me on how to play keys as part of a church band as we jammed. It was much easier than I thought, and we sounded good.





## What's Coming Up

Sunday 21st	Newish Morning Tea - After 9:45am service in the office.
Monday 22nd	Weekly Prayer Meeting - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> Meeting ID: 837 9111 9200   Passcode: qKga12
Tuesday 23rd	Playtime - Week 4 - <a href="#">Register</a>
Friday 26th	Half Past Six Simply Christianity - Week 2.
Saturday 27th	Prayer Morning 8:30-8:55am - <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> Meeting ID: 878 2345 9321   Passcode: 836532
Sunday 28th	Celebration Brunch & Dinner + Mission Gift Day — September —
Sunday 4th	Father's Day

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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