



A Church for the Future

1 Thessalonians | 15 Oct - 3 Dec



Wk 7

Sunday 26 November 2023

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
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
1 Thessalonians
5:12 (p. 1188)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Welcome to St Stephen's. Thanks for joining us today. Amongst all the competing pressures, we are glad you're able to be with us. We hope you find a warm welcome from our regulars. We would love to hear from you. Would you take a moment to fill in the Connect Card using the QR Code? You can also respond to the many things you find in this booklet using the Connect Card.



Each Sunday we spend time hearing from the Bible and reflecting on it together. We find ourselves drawn into songs of praise and thanksgiving. We are led in prayer and we meet together. These are activities that Christians have done for over 2000 years. They are a natural expression of the message God has communicated through the Biblical writers. God is kind and gracious. He does not treat us as we deserve. He treats us with mercy. This good news - the gospel - shapes how we respond.

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

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

Christmas at St Stephen's 🎁

Sat 9th December

5pm - Carols on the Grass

Christmas Eve

4pm - Family Service

10pm - Champagne Supper

11pm - Candlelight Readings & Carols

Christmas Day

9am - Community Service

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

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

1 Peter 3:18

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 forever
Amen.

Sermon Notes

Living with Him | 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. Living with leaders

2. Living with others

A. The Responsibility

B. The Challenge

“The tragedy of the impatient heart is that it idolizes its own needs and craves its own time to such an extent that it is unable to suffer with those who are suffering.”

- John Starke

3. Living with Him

A. In the Gospel

B. In the Present

C. In the Promise

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. If you first meet a follower of Jesus, outside the context of the church community, what might give you a hint they are a Christian?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. What are the characteristics of leaders in this passage?
- B. How are the Thessalonians to treat their leaders?
- C. What tasks are the Thessalonians to take on?
- D. Who is to receive 'their' ministry?

2. Consider the 4 commands in v.14. How might this take shape in your setting?

Warn the idle...	
Encourage the disheartened	
Help the weak	
Be patient with everyone	

Consider some of these verses: Col 3:12; 2 Cor 6:4-9; Gal 5:22.

3. How does impatience hijack love?

4. Why is patience with other people difficult at times?

Read 1 Timothy 1:15-17 again.

5. How does God treat us? How does this challenge the things we mentioned in question 4 above?

6. If the patient God of the gospel came to be with you, is with you and will be with you forever (1 Thes 5:10), what comfort does this bring you? How does it enable the kind of relationships God wants his people to live out?

Prayer Time

1. Spend time confessing to God the times impatience has killed love to others.
2. Ask him to give you comfort from his patient and loving presence through Christ.



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your GaP Group leader and consider the following questions:

- i. Share with each other what is something your friends are into that you could go along to with them.
- ii. Are there any opportunities (to go to something your friend is into) coming up you could make a priority to do?

Read the Bible with us!

1. What challenge is given?
2. How is God's character described?
3. Pray in response to your reading.

Monday - [Colossians 3:12-13](#)

Tuesday - [Romans 2:1-4](#)

Wednesday - [Joel 2:13-14](#)

Thursday - [2 Peter 3:8-9](#)

Friday - [1 Timothy 1:15-17](#)

Notices

Carols on the Grass

Carols on the Grass is our biggest event at St Stephen's each year. We pack out the whole carpark area and grass area to celebrate Christmas with carols and food. It's a fantastic and easy opportunity to invite your friends and family and neighbours along. This year there will be a Kids Fair, as well as a Christmas play put on by some of our St Stephen's kids, and we will be led in singing carols by the Willoughby Public School band, a community choir and our church band. Food and drinks are included in the tickets too.

There is a great community vibe about Carols on the Grass and an opportunity not just to enjoy an evening with your friends and family, but also take moments to share the beautiful Christmas story that we'll be singing about throughout the night.

Date: Saturday 9 December, 5-7pm (Kids Fair from 5-6pm).

Visit st-stephens.com.au/christmas to grab your tickets!

Join
us for

CAROLS on the grass



Saturday 9th Dec at 5pm

What better way to celebrate the hope of Christmas than with carols?

Join us on Saturday 9th December at 5pm for a Kids Fair and dinner. Carols will begin at 5:30pm, featuring Willoughby Public School band, children's activities, a nativity play and carolling.

The evening will finish at 7pm.

Cost: \$15 per person, \$5 for children, \$30 for a family.

*Bring your own picnic blanket and any additional drinks and snacks. Places are limited.

For more information visit: st-stephens.com.au



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Newish Morning Tea

Our next Newish is on today after the 9:45am service!

We are so blessed to have visitors to our church most weeks of the year. We want to help new people find their way to the centre of the church community.

We run Newish monthly to help you take the 1st small steps. Newish is a ½ hr morning tea (great food!) which introduces you to staff, a few regulars, and the basics of our church community with no ongoing commitment required.

Join in at the church office reception area after the service.

Thanking our Teachers

The SRE team is putting together small thank you packs for Willoughby Public School teachers and we would love your help! This is an opportunity for us to show our appreciation to the teachers for all their hard work and strengthen our relationship with the school.

What: Individually wrapped chocolates (e.g Lindt balls, Ferrero Rochers etc)

Where: Church Office

When: Before Monday 12th December

Add some chocolates to your weekly shop and help us to show our appreciation for our amazing teachers!

Gift Day

Thank you to those who have given!

Our target was \$35k and God's people have generously given \$45k. Depending on costing we can use these extra resources to consider new glass entry doors for the church, or new carpet for the building or a new sign. Your generosity will benefit new people God sends to us next year. Thank you for using what he has given for the sake of others.

If you planned to give but haven't, simply visit our give page at st-stephens.com.au/give

**\$45,000
given**

Thank you for
supporting the
life, ministry, and
outreach of St
Stephen's
Willoughby

Ways to express Generosity this Christmas 🎄

1. **Bring in some chocolates** (individually wrapped) which we can use to create thank you gifts for the Willoughby Public School teachers. (Due by 10 December)
2. **Contribute to the Christmas Pantry** by bringing in the following items to our Carols night: canned beans/veggies, dried fruit, condiments, pasta, or toiletries. For a full list of ideas and what to avoid, visit st-stephens.com/spring
3. **Continue your regular giving over the holiday season.** 100% of our offertories from this year's Christmas services will be donated to Anglican Aid and their Intsika Campaign.

For more on what's happening this spring at St Stephen's, visit st-stephens.com.au/spring

Our Staff - Contact Us!



Prashanth Colombage

Senior Minister

M: 0432 314 466

E: prash@st-stephens.com.au



Gordon Luk

Outreach & Sunday Services

E: gordon@st-stephens.com.au



Pippie Krebs

Kids & Youth Minister

E: pippie@st-stephens.com.au



Jill Chilton

Membership Minister

E: jill@st-stephens.com.au



Melody Hoey

Off-site Administrator

E: office@st-stephens.com.au