

Unwrap the Ancient

ST STEPHEN'S WILLOUGHBY



Wk 1

Sunday 10 December 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: Matthew 1:1-17 (p. 965)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Welcome to St Stephen's. It's great to have you with us today. We hope you find a warm welcome, encouragement from the Bible and hope for the week ahead. We would love to hear from you if you are new or visiting. Would you say hi to one of the staff or use the QR code to fill our Connect Card.



We're in full Christmas mode. Yesterday was our Carols event and today we continue our celebrations as we sing, pray and hear from the Bible. The Christmas events are extraordinary news. They took place 2000 years ago but continue to resonate in our personal and public spaces. The world was forever changed that glorious night when Christ was born. The season of Christmas offers us the opportunity to stop, take stock of life, find a new and meaningful hope and purpose to each day. We hope the news of Jesus's birth brings you joy today!

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 🎁

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

Our Father in heaven,
You are big and we are small.
Thank you that you are the King over everything.
We are sorry for not loving or listening to you.
We are sorry that we choose our way instead of yours.
Please help us live as friends with you
through Jesus Christ.
Help us to listen and love you by your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15a

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

The King Has Come | Matthew 1:1-17

Preacher: Micah Beel

1. Jesus is the king

2. A kingdom for the helpless

3. A kingdom of peace

Christmas Eve Services

4pm

Celebrate Christmas with us at our 4pm Christmas Eve Family Service and stay around for a sausage sizzle afterwards!

This is a high-energy, kid-friendly service that will help everyone, young and old, to reflect and appreciate God's love and grace to us in sending His Son that first Christmas.

Bring your friends, family and neighbours along!



11pm

Straight after our Champagne Supper at 10pm will be our Candlelight Readings and Carols service.

Join us as we reflect on the beauty and awe of the Christmas story through the Bible readings and carols. This service will finish at midnight to welcome in Christmas Day.

Come along beforehand for the Champagne Supper to enjoy a glass and some festive food—bring your friends!



Christmas Eve Champagne Supper

10pm before the 11pm Candlelight Service

Come along, enjoy a glass
and some festive food, and
celebrate Christmas with us.
Non-alcoholic drinks available too.

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Christmas Eve

4PM – FAMILY SERVICE
with a sausage sizzle afterwards.

10PM – CHAMPAGNE SUPPER
with champagne, mulled wine and festive food.

**11PM – CANDLELIGHT
READINGS AND CAROLS**

Christmas Day

9AM – COMMUNITY SERVICE
with a community choir, Kids Spot
and a Christmas morning tea.

Please note that only the Christmas Day service will be livestreamed.

Christmas Book Guide



The Christmas Promise

A story about God's promise to send a Saviour King.



Seek and Find - First Christmas

An interactive way to explore the story of the first Christmas.



Is Christmas Unbelievable?

A short, engaging book about how Christmas is fact, not fantasy.



God's Big Promises

25 door advent calendar with devotions to help your family focus on Jesus this Christmas.



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 11 December)
2. **Contribute to the Christmas Pantry** by bringing in to the Chapel Hall the following items by Dec 23: canned beans/veggies, dried fruit, condiments, pasta, or toiletries. For a full list of ideas and what to avoid, visit st-stephens.com/summer
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 summer at St Stephen's, visit st-stephens.com.au/summer

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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