



A New King

The life of Jesus
according to Matthew's Gospel



Wk 2

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession & Assurance
- Song
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading: Matthew 4:1-25 (p. 967)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

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.

Sunday 11 February 2024

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.

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're glad you could join us today. We think there is no better place to be on a Sunday. It's a joy to share this time with you. We would love to hear how you found the time. Let us know by using the QR code, the Connect Card inside or chatting with one of the staff team.



Today we return to Matthew's account of Jesus's life. Unlike other religious figures of history, Christians base their belief of God on the historical life of one man – Jesus. Who God is, what he is concerned with, what he will do all find their answers in his life, teachings, his death and then his resurrection. This makes the accounts of his life the most significant writings in the history of the world. We get the privilege to open them up, think hard about what they say and respond.

Next Steps

Are you new? We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our next **Newish Morning Tea** on Sunday 25 February. It runs for ½ an hour straight after the service.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next **Belonging Course** which runs on the 10th of March from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community.

Got a question? Fill out a **connect card** to chat with a staff member.

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.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

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 Beginning of the Kingdom | Matthew 4:1-25

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. The defeat of the Devil (v. 1-11)
2. The light dawning in the darkness (v. 12-17)
3. The call to repent—to leave everything and follow the King (v. 18-25)

The starting point is Jesus

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. What do you think is most compelling about Christianity as a whole? What do you think would be most compelling to your friends that aren't Christian? (some options: the church community, the coherence of the Christian worldview, Christian morals etc.)

Read Matthew 4:1-25

Getting your head around the passage:

Choose as many of these questions as you need to get your head around the passage.

- A. What are the 3 temptations that Jesus faces (v. 1-12)?
- B. How does Jesus respond to the Devil each time?
- C. Why does Jesus then withdraw to Galilee and what does that fulfill?
- D. What is the message that Jesus begins to preach (v. 17)?
- E. What does Jesus say to his first disciples?
- F. Describe their response to Jesus's call.

2. What do you find surprising or encouraging about how Jesus's first disciples react to His call? Why do you think they did this?

3. How does being captivated by Jesus Himself help us continue as disciples of Christ (and help those to begin following Jesus for the first time)?

4. Why do you think Jesus becomes less compelling and captivating in our lives at times? What distractions or doubts compete with Him in our hearts?

5. Jesus's temptation story (v. 1-12) is often unhelpfully used primarily as a 'template' for what to do when you're tempted. If instead we see that it primarily highlights our sinfulness (we could never withstand Satan on our own) and Jesus's sinlessness (only He could withstand Satan's temptations), how might that help us be captivated by Jesus instead of focussing on our efforts?

"Because the sinless Saviour died, my sinful soul is counted free..."

— Before the Throne of God Above

6. How can you as a GaP group keep pointing each other to our sinless Saviour as you keep going as disciples?

Prayer Time

1. Spend some time in smaller groups, confessing how we have not been captured by Christ and how our hearts have been captivated by other things.
2. Ask God to help you as a group this year, point each other back to Jesus Himself, to delight and be wowed by who He is and what He has done for you.

Read the Bible with us!

Matthew's Gospel is soaked with Old Testament references. Re-read Matthew 4 again alongside some Old Testament passages to see the beauty and awe of Christ.

1. How does Jesus compare/fulfill the Old Testament?
2. What can you praise Jesus for from these readings?
3. How can you respond to Jesus in faith today?

Monday – [Matt 4:1-11](#), [Gen 3:1-7](#)

Tuesday – [Matt 4:1-11](#), [Deut 8:1-6](#)

Wednesday – [Matt 4:12-17](#), [Isa 9:1-7](#)

Thursday – [Matt 4:17](#), [Psalm 83](#)

Friday – [Matt 4:18-22](#), [Jonah 1:1-3](#)

Notices

Gospel and Prayer Groups

Our GaP Groups are excellent spaces for you to soak yourself in the promises of God and shape your prayer life accordingly. They provide a regular time of encouragement, grounded in the Bible's solid hope. The community you experience in a group will enrich your spiritual life and help you shape not only your vision for church but all of life.



If you have not joined a group but you are interested please use the Connect Card or speak to Prash. We are looking to start a couple of new groups this year.

Lunar New Year Banquet

Happy Lunar New Year!

Registrations are open for our Lunar New Year Banquet on Tuesday night 20 Feb, 7-9:30pm. We have upped our menu for the banquet this year to showcase some signature dishes from the different countries that celebrate Lunar New Year. This will be matched with drinks (including Chinese Tea) and dessert. Everyone is invited to this night. We'd love to see your friends, family, neighbours and colleagues come along.

Thank you to all who helped out with the letterbox drop. Please take any remaining fliers to give to a friend. This night is a celebration of food and culture, but it's also a chance to open up a deeper conversation about life and faith.

At St Stephen's, we want to be a place where anyone can come explore the big questions of life. During the night, we will be showing the first video of the world-renowned Alpha course.



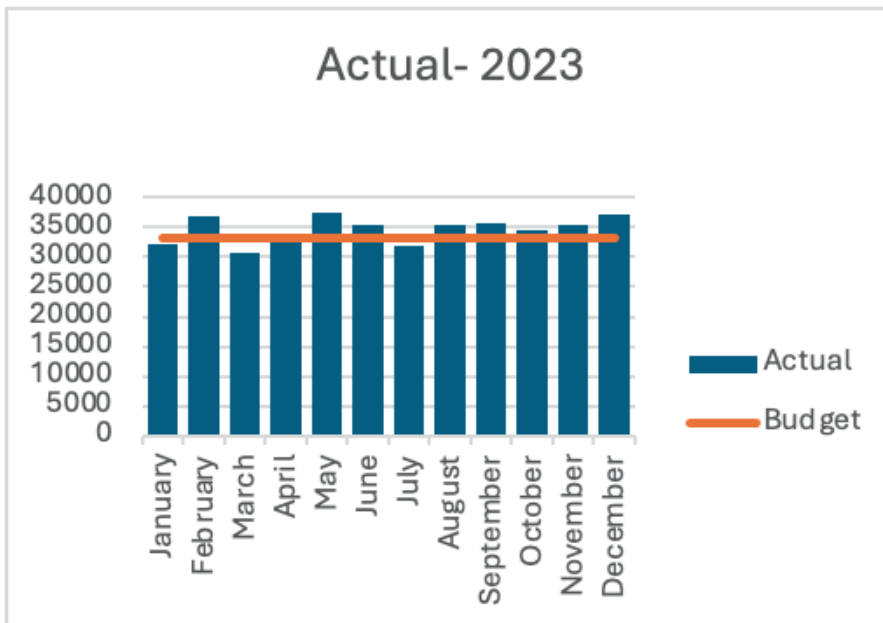
This is a great conversation starter to talk about life, faith and Jesus over delicious food and drink.

Book your spot at st-stephens.com.au/lnybanquet

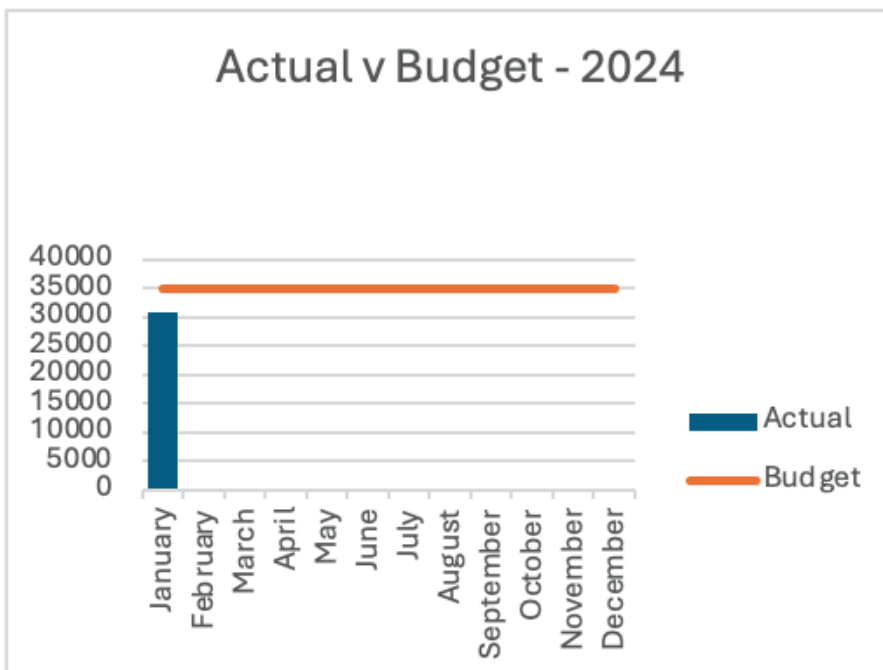
Notices

Finances

Last year we were blessed by the generosity of our church members. Thank you to those who gave generously so that the message of Jesus could be heard by so many! That generosity meant we were able to meet our budget for 2024 and do more than we expected.



In 2024, we hope to keep doing great ministry. However, increased costs and the relocation of some members mean we are left with a significant budgetary challenge. We encourage members to continue to give generously. Would you consider your giving for the year and adjust it accordingly. To start giving you can visit our website for details: st-stephens.com.au/give



What's Coming Up

15 February	Encounter for Seniors
18 February	Baptism Sunday
18 February	Kids, Music & Welcoming Training
20 February	Lunar New Year Banquet
25 February	Newish Morning Tea

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

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