

A New King

The life of Jesus
according to Matthew's Gospel



Wk 8

Sunday 24 March 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.

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading: Matthew 7:15-29 (p. 972)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're glad to welcome you. We think there is no better place to be on a Sunday than at church! If you are visiting or new, we hope you find a warm welcome from our regular community. We would love to hear from you. Would you take a moment to fill in the connect card or use the QR Code?



What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? It's a simple and not so simple answer. To follow Jesus is, surprisingly, not about completing a checklist of doing certain things. To be a follower of Jesus is to have a deep attitude of dependence on Christ for eternal salvation, for assurance before God, for his daily provision and for direction and shape in your life. It is to give up your way and take up his, knowing it is better.

St Stephen's is all about helping more people become more like Jesus as they follow him.

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.

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](#) today! 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 2nd of June from 12-3pm. Belonging is the gateway to our [GaP Groups](#), serving and deeper connection with the community. Or if you'd like to learn more sooner, you may also like to arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

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

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:12

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

Truth in the Kingdom | Matthew 7:15-29

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. Good & Bad Trees – What are we offering?
2. False & True Prophets – Who are we listening to?
3. Wise & Foolish Builders – On whom is our foundation?

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. Are you more likely to think about things “black and white” (ie. Binary) or in “grey” (ie. Less rigid)? Does it change when it comes to big/important things or questions?

Read Matthew 7:15-29

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 all the binaries that Jesus uses?
- B. How does Jesus say good trees are recognised?
- C. What might some people offer Jesus to get into the kingdom? (v. 22)
- D. What are all the differences between the wise and the foolish builder?
- E. How is the wise builder recognised?
- F. In light of verse 24, who do you think is the “true prophet” (as opposed to the “false prophets”)?

2. Read Deuteronomy 13:1-3. If a false prophet is anyone who tempts/persuades us to worship idols, what are some modern/contemporary examples of things in our world that tempt us away from worshipping God?

3. How can we watch out against listening to these prophets and “building our houses” on idols/things other than Jesus?

4. What’s hard about “building your house on Jesus”?

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener...Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”

—Jesus (John 15:1, 4)

5. In light of John 15 and Matthew 7:15-29

- a. How can we “be a good tree” and “bear good fruit”, and not be thrown in the fire (Matt 7:17-19)?
- b. On what basis can we ask for entry into the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt 7:21-23)?
- c. How can “our houses” survive the Final Floods, Storms of God’s Judgment (Matt 7:24-27)?

6. What difference might it make listening regularly to this message of hope from Jesus to you for life everyday and also for the big decisions of life?

Prayer Time

Split up into smaller groups to pray:

1. Are there things other than Jesus that you have been tempted to build your life upon? Confess this to each other.
2. Pray for each other to look to our Saviour Jesus and that the Spirit would help us build our lives in full dependence on Him.



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video via the QR code and consider the following questions:

- i. Who is a friend you could bring along to Easter?
Spend some time praying for them with each other.



Read the Bible with us!

1. What does Jesus want from us in this reading?
2. How has He graciously made it possible for us to do this by:
 - a. His death on the cross, and/or
 - b. His resurrection from the dead, and/or
 - c. His giving of His Spirit to help us.

Monday – [Matthew 7:1-6](#)

Tuesday – [Matthew 7:7-12](#)

Wednesday – [Matthew 7:13-14](#)

Thursday – [Matthew 7:15-23](#)

Friday – [Matthew 7:24-29](#)

Notices

AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Monday 25 March at 7:30pm** in the Church Building.

The AGM is an opportunity to hear reports on the past year of ministry, the state of our church's finances, the ongoing plans for redevelopment of the site and the year ahead for our church. The AGM is also the chance to vote in office bearers (Parish Councillors, Wardens, Nominators) for the year ahead.

The meeting is an encouraging hour of gathering and recommitting to the community God is building here at St Stephen's.

To vote in the AGM you need to be a baptised member of the Anglican Church, however all are welcome to attend the meeting.

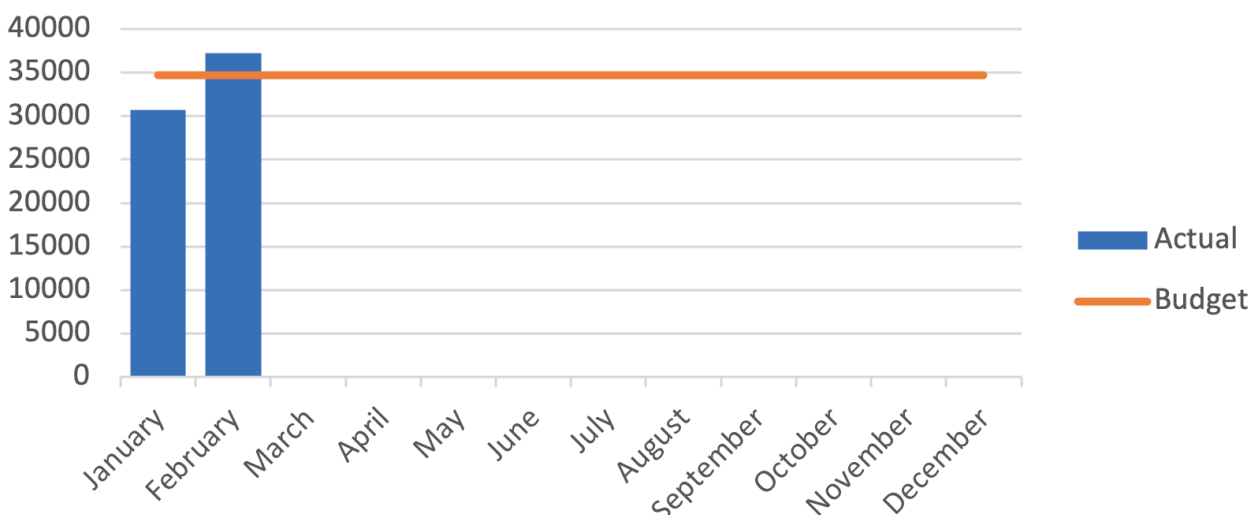
We hope we will see many of our newer members attend.

Finances

Thank you to the regular members of our church who graciously and generously fund the life of our community. The generosity of God's people ensures we can share this beautiful experience of community with others and, importantly, share our Lord Jesus with others. If you are keen to help see our ministry spread further and deeper then you can partner financially with us.

Visit our website for more details or chat with Prash – st-stephens.com.au/give.

Actual Giving V Budget (linear) - 2024



Notices

Friday Kids Update

Last week we had 38 kids come to our Friday Kids Laser tag event. We had a wonderful time running, playing and learning that Jesus is the greatest treasure. We had 15 non-Christian kids come after being invited by their SRE teachers. Praise God! Please pray that many of these kids will come back and keep exploring the good news of Jesus.



Emu Music Conference

Here's a takeaway from the conference by James:
"In light of the peace of Christ graciously given to us, I strive towards assisting the congregation to celebrate Christ in song!"



What's Coming Up

25 March	AGM
28 March	Easter Walkthrough
29 March	Good Friday Services
31 March	Easter Sunday Services
18 April	Encounter for Seniors

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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