



A New King

The life of Jesus
according to Matthew's Gospel

 St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Wk11

Sunday 14 April 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 to have you with us! We think there is no better place to be on a Sunday than church. We hope you find a warm welcome, encouragement, wisdom from the Bible and hope for the future. We would love to hear how you found church.



Could you take a moment and let us know via the QR Code or the Connect Card inside?

What impact does knowing the events of Easter have on your life. Perhaps you are still trying to work out whether they are true? If so, we're so glad to have you here. But take time to reach out to us and let us know how we can help you explore more. Perhaps you are convinced about the truthfulness of those events. If so, we hope this church helps you see a new shape to your life because of meeting Jesus.

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading: Matthew 9:14-17 (page 974)
- 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.

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 26 May. 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

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.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous,
to bring you to God.

1 Peter 3:18a

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

New and Old in the Kingdom | Matthew 9:14-17

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. Jesus's ministry questioned: Why didn't his disciples fast (v. 14)?

2. Jesus's coming misunderstood: The Bridegroom is here (v. 15a).

3. Jesus's mission misunderstood: He will be taken away (v. 15b)

4. Jesus misunderstood: New cannot go with Old (v. 16-17)

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. Do you think Christianity is more about “the old” (ie. Traditions, conservative views/systems/ways of thinking) or “the new” (ie. Revolutionary ideas/message etc)? Debate both sides. What would your non-Christian friend think?

Read Matthew 9:14-17

Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. Who has come to question Jesus (v.14)?
- B. What is their question?
- C. What is Jesus’s immediate response (v. 15)? Explain it in your own words.
- D. Why do you think Jesus uses the word “mourn” in verse 15? Why don’t His disciples fast now?
- E. When will they fast (v. 15)?
- F. Explain the parables Jesus uses in verses 16-17 and the point Jesus is trying to make.

2. Why would people (now and back in Matthew 9) think that Jesus is still doing something that has been done before (ie. part of the old ways people have related to God)?

3. How might we be tempted to make the following mistakes?

- Confuse Jesus’s gospel and the gospel-shaped life with religious duty and practices (ie. We miss the grace and atonement of Christ.)
- Have no visible change in our lives (ie. Behaviour, decisions, world-view, desires, relationships) after accepting Jesus (ie. We miss the Lordship of Christ.)

4. In both mistakes above, we miss the freshness and confronting beauty of the gospel. What are your biggest barriers to hearing the gospel afresh regularly?

“The gospel, like its blessed Master, is always crucified between two thieves—legalists of all sorts on the one hand and Antinomians on the other; the former robbing the Saviour of the glory of His work for us, and the other robbing Him of the glory of His work within us”

— James Henley Thornwell

5. When you became a Christian, what did you find the most compelling/mind-blowing/revolutionary about Jesus and His gospel?

Prayer Time

Spend some time praying for us to keep seeing the gospel afresh everyday and to never get bored of Jesus.

Read the Bible with us!

What does this passage tell us about Jesus?

Monday - [Matthew 9:18-26](#)

Tuesday - [Matthew 9:27-34](#)

Wednesday - [Leviticus 16:1-22](#)

Thursday - [Leviticus 16:29-34](#)

Friday - [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

Notices

The B Family Visit to St Stephens | Sunday 5 May

The B Family, one of our Parish Link Missionaries, will be visiting our church on Sunday 5 May. They have a long connection with the community at St Stephen's. For some it will be an opportunity to welcome them back. However, we are most excited about hearing how God has been working through their ministry, where he is leading them to in the future and how we can continue to partner with them. Meeting a link missionary in the flesh is the best way to find encouragement to pray for them. Make sure you are around to meet them!



Conversations about Hope Event

St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT
HOPE
AT WILLOUGHBY HOTEL

THURSDAY 23 MAY
7 - 9 PM

Penshurst Room (upstairs), Willoughby Hotel
315 Penshurst Rd

ST-STEPHENS.COM.AU/AUTUMN

MEET OUR PANEL



ROGER MONTGOMERY

Roger is the founder of Montgomery Investment Management, where he manages \$1.5 billion worth of investment portfolios. He has authored a best-seller on buying stocks and regularly contributes on ABC's *The Business* and *The Weekend Australian*.



LEISA AITKEN

Leisa is a clinical psychologist and currently completing a PhD in the psychology of hope, researching Australians' hopes for their own lives and also their hopes for humanity. She has spoken publicly on hope and its links with philosophy and psychology.



PRASHANTH COLOMBAGE

Prashanth is the Senior Minister at St Stephen's Willoughby and has degrees in English Literature, Law and Theology. Previously, he worked as a commercial litigation lawyer at Hunt & Hunt. His clients included Boral, NRMA and a bunch of truck drivers who took on a global company and won.



Scan to book your spot.
ST-STEPHENS.COM.AU/AUTUMN

Notices

Crafternoon

As a church we want young people to develop biblically shaped active faith. One of the ways this happens is by kids doing craft that reinforces the Bible lesson. We would love your help in preparing these craft activities. Having the craft prepared is helpful as it frees up the kid's leaders to spend more time preparing the biblical content of the lesson. We would really appreciate your help! You don't need any particular craft skills. If you can cut, glue or stick we can put you to good use!

When: Monday 29th April

Time: 1-3pm

Where: Hainsworth Hall

KYCK Conference

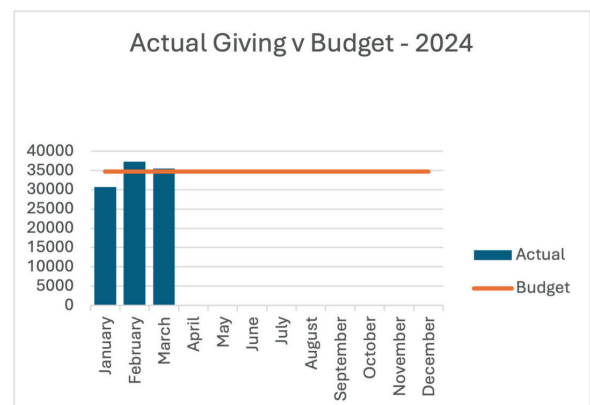
KYCK is a conference in Katoomba for high schoolers. It is an opportunity to get away together as a community and explore the difference Jesus makes. We will spend time listening to great bible talks, worshipping, and building friendships. This year we will be looking at the book of Genesis.

When: 19th - 21st April 2024 | Who: Yr 7-12 | Where: Katoomba

It's not too late to register, just speak to Nikita ASAP!

Finances

We are thankful for those generous members of our church family who financially support the ministry of St Stephen's. Everything that happens at our church is financially provided for by the people of St Stephen's. If you consider St Stephen's to be your church home, we want to encourage you to give generously and sacrificially to the various and wonderful ministries that happen here. Visit st-stephens.com.au/give for details on how to setup regular giving.



What's Coming Up

19-21 April	KYCK Conference
29 April	Crafternoon (prepare craft for Sunday Kids)
5 May	The B Family Visit to St Stephens
23 May	Conversations of Hope
26 May	Newish Morning Tea

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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