



# St Stephen's

WILLOUGHBY  
VISION SUNDAY

WE LONG TO BE A CHURCH MADE

*beautiful, diverse and large*

by the gracious work of Christ

## TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

## Sunday 28 July 2024

*Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.*

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Readings:  
Deut 29:29  
(p. 205)  
John 1:1-18  
(p. 1062)
- Sermon
- Song
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Welcome to St Stephen's. We're so glad you can join us. We hope you find a warm welcome and a place with us. We would love to hear from you. You can reach out to one of our regulars, to a staff member or use the Connect Card / QR Code.



Our church values 4 things in our life together: **Praying** big prayers shaped by the Gospel, **Bringing** friends to faith, **Growing** the young in their devotion to God's word and **Celebrating** together for the glory of Christ. As we start the 2nd half of the year we want to refresh our focus on the young people in God's church. We want to be a church filled with young people who treasure the Bible, are obedient to it and love sharing it with others. We want young people completely transformed by the hope of Jesus. We want young people who have a strong gospel foundation.

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 25 August. 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 8 September 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.

# 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 you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

1 Peter 1:18-19

## 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 Mystery and Privilege of Knowing God | Deut 29:29 & John 1:1-18

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. Mysterious

2. Revealed

3. Responsible

# Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. “What is God like?” How do you think the following people might answer this question:
  - a. Your Family
  - b. Your Neighbours
  - c. Your Boss / Co-worker

**Read Deut 29:29; Isaiah 55:8-9; Ps 102:25-27; Col 1:16-17; Job 11:7-9**

## **Getting your head around the passage:**

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

- A. How is God described in each passage?
- B. How is he different to us and creation?

2. Share with the group a time when this truth of God was especially clear to you. Perhaps your group can pause here and spend some time in prayers of adoration to God for his greatness.

3. How can the truth of God’s unfathomable nature be comforting to the believer? Why might the next generation need to know this?

*“One generation believes something. The next assumes it. And the third will forget and deny it.” (D.A. Carson)*

4. Why might we forget the unfathomable nature of God?

Read John 1:14-18

5. How can the gospel bring hope and new purpose to the spiritual nurture of the next generation?

6. What from Sunday’s message struck you as ways you could take part in passing the gospel on to our children?

## **Read the Bible with us!**

1. What encouragement/example for the next generation is given?
2. How does God’s character and work affect our action?
3. Pray for the young people of our church.

Monday - [Deut 29:29](#)

Tuesday - [Psalm 78:1-8](#)

Wednesday - [Deut 6:20-25](#)

Thursday - [2 Tim 1:3-5](#)

Friday - [Psalm 145:4](#)

# Notices

## International Food Feast | 9 August

We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ.

The beauty of the gospel is that it says Jesus matters and is for everyone no matter who they are and where they're from.

We want to invite everyone in our community to our International Food Feast. Is there someone you could bring along?

Don't forget to register at [st-stephens.com.au/international-food-feast](http://st-stephens.com.au/international-food-feast)

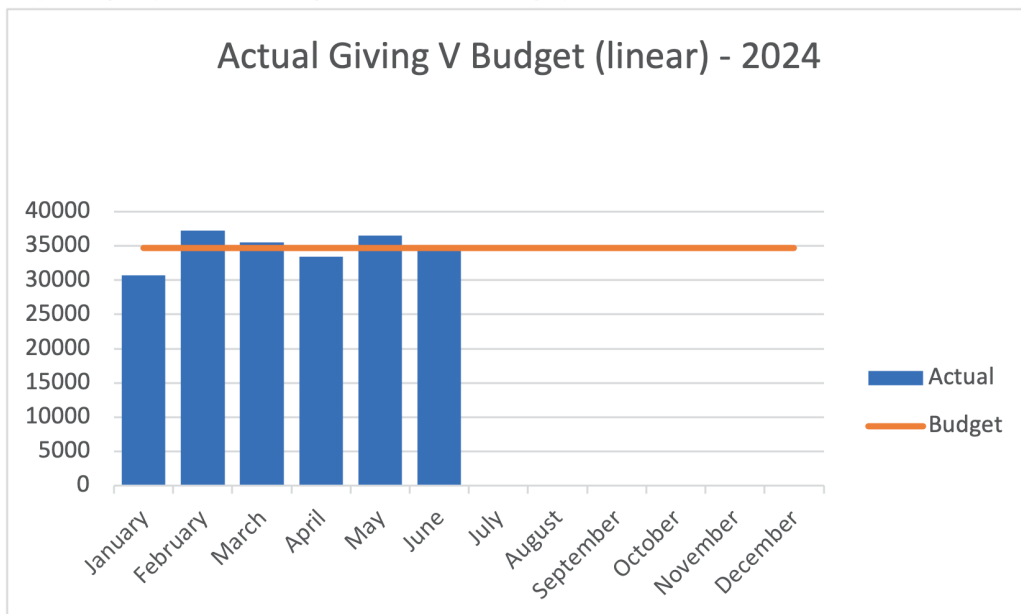


## Finances

Thank you to those who generously support the life of our church and the spread of the gospel. This year we have seen 26 new people partner with us financially! We are so glad to have them on mission with us. Regular & sacrificial giving helps St Stephen's promote the gospel. The gospel can make us a church that reflects the diversity and size of our neighbourhood. The gospel can slowly transform the most hardened of people to be more like Christ – a divine beauty which is given not earned.

Would you like to support our great mission?

Visit our give page – [st-stephens.com.au/give](http://st-stephens.com.au/give)



# Kids and Youth Programs start back

**26  
JULY**

**FRIDAY KIDS**  
KINDY-YEAR 4  
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM



Who could  
you bring  
along?

**26  
JULY**

**HALF PAST SIX**  
YEAR 6-9  
6:30 PM - 8:15 PM

**28  
JULY**

**SUNDAY KIDS  
AND YOUTH**  
ALL AGES  
SUNDAYS



**30  
JULY**

**PLAYTIME**  
0-5 YEAR OLDS + CARERS  
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM



**Pray for our groups!**

Contact Pippie for more info: [pippie@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:pippie@st-stephens.com.au)

# What's Coming Up

- 29 July - 2 Aug Prayer Week
- 9 August International Food Feast
- 12 August Alpha Course
- 18 August Music, Welcoming & Kids Ministry Training
- 23 August Friday Kids with BBQ

For more on what's happening this winter at St Stephen's, visit [st-stephens.com.au/winter](http://st-stephens.com.au/winter)

## Our Staff - Contact Us!



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