

St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

WE LONG TO BE A CHURCH MADE

beautiful, diverse and large

by the gracious work of Christ

Wk 1

Sunday 2 February 2025

Our 9:30am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels.

TODAY'S
9:30AM
SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Reading:
Col 1:15-23, 4:2-6
(p. 1182)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Lord's Supper
- 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.

We're so glad you've joined us today. As a church, we long to be **beautiful, diverse, and large**—a community transformed by the gracious work of Jesus for us on the cross. We want to reflect some of God's glory, and reach out to all people with the hope Jesus offers.



Our week of prayer begins this Monday, and we invite you to devote yourselves to seeking the Lord with us. Like the hymn says, "God has spoken by His prophets, spoken His unchanging word," and through prayer, we align our hearts with His purposes found in his Word (the Bible). Let's pray for our church to grow in love, for the Holy Spirit to empower our ministries, and for more people to serve Jesus in our community.

If you're new or visiting, we'd love to connect with you! Please scan the QR code on the connect card to share how we can serve you or pray for you.

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 16 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 23 February 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 at another time, you can arrange a coffee with Prash or Jill. Simply reach out – they'd love to chat.

Prayers for those not sharing in Lord's Supper

Participation in the Lord's Supper is for those who have professed faith in Jesus - it's a powerful and important symbol of the Christian message. As such we want to encourage those who are still exploring the Christian faith to feel free to remain in their seats when others move to the front to receive the Lord's Supper. During that time you may want to reflect on the sermon or Bible reading. You may also want to pray one of these prayers below.

Prayer for those searching for truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me who you are. Give me an understanding of you that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayers adapted from Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York.

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

True Devotion | Colossians 1:15-23 & 4:2-6

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. Devoted to...

2. Shaped by...

3. Assured in...

Bible Study

[Note: This week is our Quarterly Week of Prayer. We would love to see you and your GaP Group at one of the nights of prayer. They run from 7:30-8:30pm in the Chapel Hall]

1. What or who are you devoted to? How does that impact your decisions, time and energy spent?

Read Colossians 4:2-6

Getting your head around the passage:

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

- A. What commands does Paul issue?
- B. Who benefits from the commands?
- C. Why are these commands necessary?
- D. How might things change as a result of Paul's command?

2. When you consider your prayer life, what does it show you are devoted to? Are you content with that? In what ways do you hope it would change?

3. What hinders you being devoted to prayer in a greater manner?

4. How does praying with others help your prayer life? How can you make a way to join the week of prayer this week?

5. How can thankfulness help your prayer life? What can you be thankful for? What can we as a church be thankful for?

Read Colossians 1:19-20

6. How does God's devotion to reconciliation show itself?

7. How might reflecting on God's devotion to us stir our hearts to be devoted to the kind of prayer life Paul encourages?

Notices

Week of Prayer - 3-7 February

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” (Col 4:2)
Our 1st mission priority as a church is to pray big prayers shaped by the gospel.

Week of Prayer (Monday 3 February to Friday 7 February) is this week. It’s for our whole St Stephen’s church family to come before our Heavenly Father in prayer and commit the year before us to Him.

Every night we will meet from 7:30pm to 8:30pm in the Chapel Hall. You might want to come with your GaP group on the night you usually meet, or you may want to come multiple nights.

Everyone is welcome as we bring our church ministries and members before our loving God.

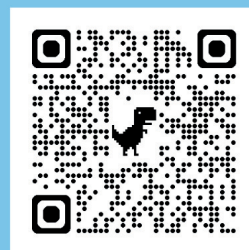


Gospel and Prayer Groups

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) groups are our midweek small groups where we can go deeper in God’s Word and deeper with each other in prayer. The Christian life is not designed to be walked alone—but together with brothers and sisters in Christ. GaP groups are spaces for walking alongside each other, encouraging each other to live out the gospel.

If you would like to join a GaP group, scan the QR code or fill in a Connect card to speak to Gordon.

Sign up for a
**Gospel and
Prayer (GaP)**
Group



Notices

Lunar New Year Banquet - 17 February



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY
invites you to our

**Lunar
New Year
Banquet**

**MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY
7-9:30 PM**

3 COURSE BANQUET | DRINKS INCL. | \$25 PP

WITH

A TASTE OF THE ALPHA COURSE
A chance to #tryalpha and explore life, faith
& meaning, through the 1st instalment of
the world-renowned Alpha Course.

211 Mowbray Rd,
Willoughby

st-stephens.com.au

Scan to
book
your
spot.

Alpha is kicking off with the Lunar New Year banquet on Monday 17 February. It's designed for your friends to explore life, faith and meaning in a friendly, safe environment.

Who could you invite? Grab some fliers from the back of church this Sunday to give to friends. If you can help us with the letterbox drop, that would be fantastic. Let's invite our friends, neighbours, community to hear about Jesus.

Serving

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

As followers of Christ, we're called to serve others using the gifts God has given us. Training helps us steward those gifts wisely, whether we're new to a team or have been serving for years.



This year, we're hosting three all-in training sessions for everyone serving across all teams. Together, we'll enjoy lunch, hear from the Bible, and reflect on character, convictions, and skills. A kids' program is included. Our first session is on March 2nd, 11:45 AM-2 PM. Don't miss it! Register using the QR code.



What's Coming Up

3-7 February	Week of Prayer
4 February	SRE Conference
7 February	Half Past Six Family BBQ
9 February	Kids Ministry Leaders Commissioning
16 February	Newish Morning Tea

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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