



A New King

The life of Jesus
according to Matthew's Gospel

 St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Wk 16

Sunday 23 February 2025

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



TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession & Assurance
- Song
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Reading: Matthew 13:1-23 (p. 978)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- 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're here this morning. Our church longs to be **beautiful, diverse, and large** by the gracious work of Christ. This term, we're focusing on our value of "praying big prayers shaped by the gospel." We believe God works powerfully through the prayers of His people, and one of the best ways to grow in prayer is alongside others.

That's why our GaP Groups (Gospel and Prayer Groups) are so important! These groups help us deepen our faith in God's word, pray boldly, and encourage one another in living for Jesus. If you're not yet part of a group, now is a great time to join!

If you're visiting or new, we'd love to hear how you found this morning. Please fill out a Connect Card by scanning the QR Code—we'd love to connect with 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 30 March. 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 today 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 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.

6 Praise be to the Lord,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.
7 The Lord is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.

Psalms 28:6-7

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 Seeds of Change | Matthew 13:1-23

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. Parables or Fables/Wise sayings (v. 1-9)
2. “The knowledge of the Kingdom” (v. 10-17)
3. Four ways to receive the Word (v. 18-23)

How do you go deep in the Word?

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Praying for one another

Spend some time sharing prayer-points and praying for each other

Going deep in God's Word

Read Matthew 13:1-23

Draw the 4 different soils and an example of what someone with that posture to God's Word might be like. Share with each other afterwards

Verses	Picture of the Soil	Picture of someone who might adopt that posture to God's Word
4, 19		
5-6, 20-21		
7, 22		
8, 23		

Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, spend some time reflecting on the following questions, sharing and praying together.

1. What did you find personally challenging or convicting about this Scripture?

2. What signs of growth in the fruit of the Spirit do you see in yourself? (e.g. Have you seen the Spirit's work increase love, joy, peace, patience, honesty, humility, gentleness, self-control in you in different situations?)

3. What assurance of your standing in Christ do you need to be reminded of in the gospel?

If you have time, finish by singing I Stand Amazed together, you can scan this QR Code to listen to a recording.



Read the Bible with us!

Using some of the questions to guide you.

1. What does this show me about God?
2. What does this show me about myself and my relationship to God?
3. What does this show me about Jesus?
4. How might this shape my heart, mind, life, actions today?

Monday – [James 1](#)

Tuesday – [James 2](#)

Wednesday – [James 3](#)

Thursday – [James 4](#)

Friday – [James 5](#)

Notices

Belonging Course - Today!

New to our church or wanting to get more connected? Join us for the Belonging Course today from 12–3 PM! This is a great opportunity to meet others, hear our church's vision, and explore what it means to belong.

Whether you're considering making this your church home or just curious, we'd love to have you there. Lunch is provided, and there'll be plenty of time for questions. Don't miss this chance to take the next step in your faith and community.



BELONGING COURSE

AN INTRODUCTION TO GETTING INVOLVED IN OUR CHURCH

SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

12pm - 3pm

Chapel Hall

LUNCH & AFTERNOON TEA PROVIDED

Playtime

Playtime has had a wonderful start to the year! This week, we welcomed 42 people, including many local families who don't yet know Jesus. It's such a joy to connect, build friendships, and share the gospel with them each week. Praise Him for this opportunity to love and serve our community. We'd love your prayers as we continue to share Jesus' love with these families!



Notices

Alpha - 24 February - 24 March

Alpha is a great place to meet others and have meaningful conversations about the things that matter in life.

Each week you eat dinner together, watch a short video and have a chance to ask your questions.

Everyone is welcome
and it's free!

Try Alpha and explore
life, meaning and the
Christian faith! 7-9pm
every Monday night.



COME & SEE
MONDAYS 7-9PM
at St Stephen's Willoughby
FREE DINNER INCLUDED!

QR code

 Mon 17 Feb (Lunar New Year Banquet) Is there more to life?	 Mon 10 Mar How can I have faith?
 Mon 24 Feb Who is Jesus?	 Mon 17 Mar Why & how do I pray?
 Mon 3 Mar Why did Jesus die?	 Mon 24 Mar How do I read the Bible?

Big Day Out - 22 March

Big Day Out (Sat 22 March) is going to be a key day in the life of our 930am Service. We want all members to attend so we've cancelled Sunday 23rd 930am Service to give you more bandwidth that weekend to come on the Saturday. It will be invaluable time to build relationships, welcome newer members and set down great spiritual foundations for our year together. Register via our website or chat to Prash.



Morning Church
Big Day Out

Join us on
Saturday 22nd March
10am-7pm
St Faith's Narrabeen

Guest speaker:
Simon Manchester

Spend the day with your church family around good food, great teaching from the Bible, prayer & plenty of relaxation time.

Cost: \$50 per adult, Kids are free
Includes Morning Tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Dinner
Registration is essential
st-stephens.com.au/big-day-out

Any questions contact Prash
(Financial assistance available)



What's Coming Up

24 Feb - 24 Mar	Alpha
2 March	All In Training
21 March	Friday Kids & HPS Big Week
22 March	Big Day Out
30 March	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!



Prashanth Colombage
Senior Minister

E: prash@st-stephens.com.au
M: [0432 314 466](tel:0432314466)



Gordon Luk
Outreach & GaP Groups

E: gordon@st-stephens.com.au



Pippie Krebs
Kids, Youth & Training

E: pippie@st-stephens.com.au



Jill Chilton
Membership Minister

E: jill@st-stephens.com.au



Amanda Hunter
Administrator

E: office@st-stephens.com.au



Bec Simmons
Communications Administrator

E: office@st-stephens.com.au