

FOR THE *wounded* WORLD

EASTER AT ST STEPHEN'S



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

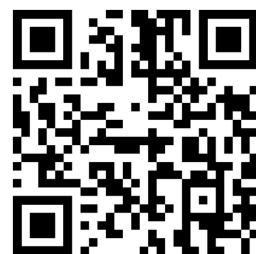
Wk 24

Easter Sunday 20 April 2025

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

*"Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won."*

Today, we rejoice in the stunning news of Matthew 28:1-10—Jesus is risen! The tomb is empty, death is defeated, and hope lives forever. Whether you're here for the first time or a regular part of our community, we're so glad you've joined us to celebrate the risen King.



TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Song
- Confession & Assurance
- Song
- Bible Reading: Matthew 28:1-10 (p. 999)
- Spotlight
- Song
- 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 long to see a **beautiful, diverse, and large** church community growing in Christ, and Easter reminds us that new life is possible for all who trust in Jesus.

A special welcome to families—our kids are staying in for the whole service today, and that means there might be a bit more noise. That's OK! We love having all ages gathered to worship.

Please use the Connect Card (QR code) to let us know how you found the service and how we can help you connect more deeply.

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 27 April. 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 1 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 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

Our Father in heaven,
You are big and we are small.
Thank you that you are the King over everything.
We are sorry for not loving or listening to you.
We are sorry that we choose our way instead of yours.
Please help us live as friends with you
through Jesus Christ.
Help us to listen and love you by your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Romans 4:25

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

Better than memories | Matthew 28:1-10

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. At the Tomb

2. The Angel's Message

3. Living in the Future

BAPTISM TESTIMONIES

ALEX SHEEDY



WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE BEFORE JESUS?

I had a lot of joy in life, but I had this underlying tension of no achievement or experience ever bringing lasting satisfaction. A couple of weeks after reaching a new milestone I would find myself feeling the same again and just shifting to focus on the next goal. I was constantly chasing something and it always felt like if I just got to the next milestone, I would finally be ok. I had anxiety about the future, my identity in the world and many other things. Overall, I would describe it as a state of restlessness and searching for something more.



WHAT ATTRACTS YOU TO JESUS?

Jesus doesn't love only the perfect or the strong. He embraces those who are flawed, struggling, and searching. I've seen the work of Jesus reflected by the outlook and actions of those around me at Church. The radical love, compassion, willingness to serve, and great hope I have witnessed has helped me to understand who Jesus is and has pulled me to want to know more.



WHAT IS LIFE LIKE NOW WITH JESUS?

Since coming to know God, I've become more reflective. My life is no longer just about chasing the next thing. I have found that prayer and time with God help me to slow down and focus on what truly matters. While I definitely still struggle with stress and other things in my life, I now have a greater sense of peace that God has a plan for me and know that I don't have to carry myself through life by only my own strength.

Aristotle tells us that knowledge proceeds from wonder, and I've found myself captivated by the wondrous nature of God. I have a desire to keep looking upward in wonder to learn more, to grow, and continue to deepen my understanding of who He is.

AMANDA HAN

WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE BEFORE JESUS?

I grew up passive to Christianity. I didn't attend church unless it was for christenings, funerals or weddings. In high school, I hung out with many atheists and agnostics and that led me astray from God. Life before knowing Jesus was undisciplined and very worldly. What brought me back to faith was wanting to change and to live by God.



WHAT ATTRACTS YOU TO JESUS?

What captivated me about Jesus was his characteristics, teachings and love for everyone.



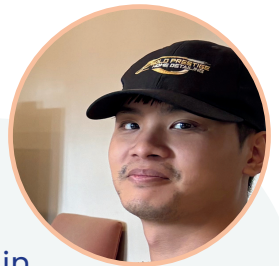
WHAT IS LIFE LIKE NOW WITH JESUS?

Life now with Jesus is much more brighter and better. I hope to spread the good word of Jesus Christ so more people will get to know everything he has done.

TIM NGUYEN

WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE BEFORE JESUS?

Before putting my faith in Jesus, I followed life through what I thought was a scientific eye: one structured around reason, fact and evidence as the basis of my understanding. I did not believe in any supernatural forces, and particularly those as mentioned in the Bible. I grew up as an atheist and it was not until confronted with my own fallacious ways of thinking (presupposing the supernatural does not exist, and therefore denying any such claims), and the power required for the creation (force that is timeless, immaterial, intelligent/personal, all-powerful) of the universe did I truly begin to know that God must exist, and then that he is revealed in the Bible. Life before Jesus truly did not have a purpose. One may say that we create our own purpose, an ode that I used to obey, however in the end this purpose is purely subjective, completely made up, and in the grand schemes of an atheistic view, completely meaningless.



WHAT ATTRACTS YOU TO JESUS AND WHAT IS LIFE LIKE NOW WITH HIM?

Now that I have found that God exists and we have been offered salvation through Jesus, I know that our lives are made with objective purpose, and that our purpose aligns with God's perfect plan. Once a bitter attitude on life, family and relationships have now been transformed through the amazing teachings of The Word of God. Praise the Lord and may his blessing be upon everyone who reads this.

Notices

Come and See

COME & SEE

how Jesus offers *life to the full*

MONDAY NIGHTS
7PM TO 8:30PM

Free food and drink.

Starting **Monday 28 April**



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Starting **Monday 28 April**

COME & SEE

is perfect for anyone who has done Alpha and wants to know how to live *the life they were made to live*.

Jesus made one of the biggest claims ever when he said:
"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John's Gospel, Chapter 10, Verse 10)

Whether you're still asking life's big questions, looking for a fresh start, or new to the Christian faith, Come & See is a chance to get together with others and see what the Bible says about Jesus and the life he offers. No prior knowledge or experience is required. Come and see!

MONDAY NIGHTS 7PM-8:30PM

Free food and drink.



St Stephen's
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Notices

Kids and Youth programs at St Stephen's

At St Stephen's we love young people and want to help them explore the big questions of life in a fun and engaging environment.

📍 Playtime, Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 AM, is for 0-5-year-olds and their caregivers. There are fun activities for kids and meaningful connections for adults.

🎨 Friday Kids for Kindy to Year 5, taking place from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, promises an afternoon of fun-filled activities as kids learn about Jesus. There is a walking bus service provided from Willoughby Public School.

☀️ Half Past Six Youth Group, tailored for Year 6-9 students, meets Fridays from 6:30 to 8:15 PM, offering a welcoming space for exploring faith and making friends.

For more information about the groups head to st-stephens.com.au/kidsandyouth



Alpha for Seniors



The banner features a background image of a sunset over water. On the left, the words "Life", "Faith", and "Meaning" are stacked vertically in a large, bold, red font. In the center, the text "THURSDAYS 10AM-12PM" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with "at St Stephen's Willoughby" and "Starts 15 May" in a smaller font below it. On the right, there is a large red stylized logo resembling a 'C' or a comma, with the word "Alpha" in a small white circle next to it, and "for SENIORS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font below.

Call 9415 1727 or email office@st-stephens.com.au to book

Newish Morning Tea

Newish is on next Sunday after our 9:30am Service. If you are new or newish we'd love to serve you by offering a special morning tea where you can meet other new people, meet the staff and some of our regular members. It's a chance to ask any question you want and consider if St Stephen's is a church community you'd like to be more a part of.

What's Coming Up

27 April	Newish Morning Tea
28 April	Come and See
29 April	Crafternoon
2-4 May	KYCK Conference
4 May	Vision Sunday

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



Prashanth Colombage
Senior Minister & Sunday Services
M: 0432 314 466
E: prash@st-stephens.com.au



Gordon Luk
Outreach & GaP Groups
E: gordon@st-stephens.com.au



Pippie Krebs
Kids & Youth Minister & Training
E: pippie@st-stephens.com.au



Jill Chilton
Membership Minister
E: jill@st-stephens.com.au



Bec Simmons
Off-site Administrator
E: office@st-stephens.com.au