

Open Door

4 • 11 • 18 • 25 January 2026

St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

Week 2

Sunday 11 January 2026

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

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading: Isaiah 44:9-20 & John 1:14-18 (p. 725)
- Sermon
- Song
- Lord's Supper
- 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.

Welcome! We're glad you're with us today as we continue our series **An Open Door**, which explores some of the honest questions people have about the Christian faith. Many assume Christianity belongs to a previous age—meaningful perhaps, but no longer plausible. Yet John 1:14-18 invites us to consider something surprising: that God has made Himself known, not through ideas or arguments alone, but by stepping into history in the person of Jesus.



Connect Card

Here on the Lower North Shore, we value reason, evidence, and thoughtful living. Christianity does not ask us to leave those behind. Instead, it invites us to look carefully at Jesus—at His life, truth, grace, and impact—and ask whether He might make better sense of the world than we expect.

Today we're grateful to hear from Mario Cheng, who is part of our Night Church community. We hope today opens space for reflection, conversation, and renewed confidence in the hope we have in Christ.

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 22 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 1 March 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

Open Door to Truth: What if Christianity is more plausible than you thought? | Isaiah 44:9-20, John 1:14-18

Preacher: Mario Cheng

Open Door

The new year is a chance to take a fresh look at Christianity.

Join us in January, every Sunday 9:30am and 6pm

Open Door to Life (4 Jan, 9:30am only)

What if there's more to life than we've settled for?

Open Door to Truth (11 Jan)

What if Christianity is more plausible than you thought?

Open Door to Grace (18 Jan)

What if the problem with the world (and us) has a solution?

Open Door to the Resurrection (25 Jan)

What if death isn't the end?

Notices

Sign up for a Gospel and Prayer (GaP) group this year

As a new year begins, it's a great time to (re)commit to growing together in the gospel. Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Groups are small groups that meet regularly at various times throughout the week to encourage one another with the truths of the Bible, to shape our prayers around the gospel, to care for each other in light of the gospel, and to see God's church grow.

Whether you've been part of a GaP Group before or you've never joined one, GaP Groups are a wonderful way to grow in your relationship with God, deepen your prayer life, build meaningful relationships, and support one another as we follow Jesus together.

We'd love for you to join a GaP Group this year. GaP groups will start in February.



Big Day Out - 21 March

This year our Morning Service will again host a Big Day Out at St Faith's Narrabeen. Come along for great food, build friendships, hear some great teaching from a visiting speaker and kick start a year of Christian friendships which encourage and grow you spiritually. Can you save the date?



Serving



SERVING AT ST STEPHEN'S



"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

AT ST STEPHEN'S, WE BELIEVE SERVING IS PART OF HOW WE WORSHIP JESUS — IT'S A JOYFUL RESPONSE TO ALL HE'S DONE FOR US.

We want to become a church filled with courageous servants who share in gospel ministry. There are going to be so many wonderful ways to get involved this year. Don't waste a moment - speak to Pippie about how you can get involved!



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

invites you to our

Lunar New Year Banquet

**MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY
7-9:30PM**

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

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COME & SEE

MONDAYS 7-9PM

at St Stephen's Willoughby

FREE DINNER INCLUDED!



Mon 23 Feb (Lunar New Year
Banquet) **Is there more to life?**



Mon 16 Mar **How can I have faith?**



Mon 2 Mar **Who is Jesus?**



Mon 23 Mar **Why & how do I pray?**



Mon 9 Mar **Why did Jesus die?**



Mon 30 Mar **How do I read the Bible?**



St Stephen's
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TryAlpha

What's Coming Up

21-25 January	LiT Camp
27 January	Crafternoon
30 January	Friday Kids BBQ
1 February	Kick off Sunday
2 February	Come and See

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

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