



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

WE LONG TO BE A CHURCH MADE

beautiful, diverse and large

by the gracious work of Christ

Week 1

Sunday 12 July 2026

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Song
- Bible Reading: Luke 15:11-32 (pg.1048)
- Sermon
- Song
- Lord's Supper
- Prayers
- 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 so glad you've joined us as we begin our new series.

Most of us know someone we'd love to see come to know Jesus—a family member, friend, neighbour, colleague, or classmate.

But what actually happens when someone comes to Christ? In Luke 15, Jesus tells the story of a son who walks away from his father and loses everything. Yet when he finally returns home, he discovers something astonishing: not rejection, but welcome. Not condemnation, but celebration.

It is one of the most beautiful pictures of the gospel in the Bible. A lost person becomes a beloved child.

In a culture where identity is often built on achievement, performance, or approval, Jesus offers something radically different: a place in God's family, secured by grace.

We long to be a church made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ, and nothing makes us more joyful than seeing people come home to the Father.



Connect Card

Next Steps

Are you new? Catch up with Prash or Jill to share your story and hear about St Stephen's church life.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next [Belonging Course](#) which runs on September 13 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 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

A lost person becomes a child of God | Luke 15: 11-32

Preacher: Emlyn Hoyt

1. The Father's unrestrained love

2. The Father's extravagant welcome

Going Deeper During The Week

Opening Reflection

What was something you enjoyed, learned, or were challenged by from Sunday's sermon?

Going deep in God's Word

Read the passage from Sunday

1. What stands out to you in this passage? (ie. Are there any repeated words, surprising details, commands, promises, or questions that feel significant?)

2. Try to break down the passage into different sections.

3. What would be missing if we didn't have this passage in the Bible? What does it reveal about who God is and who we are?

4. What aspect of the gospel is shown and magnified by this passage? How does this passage make you delight in and worship your Lord Jesus?

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of this passage, reflect and pray using the following questions as a guide.

1. What is one attitude, belief or belief that God is challenging you to change this week?
2. What comfort can you cling onto this week from His grace?
3. What is an ambitious prayer you can pray for our church and those in our neighbourhood/lives who don't yet know Jesus?

Spend time with God each day!

We're going through the Old Testament this term!

Read through the passages and use the following questions to help you.

- What does this show you about God and His character?
- What does this show you about humanity (us)?
- How does this point to what Jesus will do or what He'll be like?

Monday - Numbers 27

Tuesday - Numbers 28

Wednesday - Numbers 29

Thursday - Numbers 30

Friday - Numbers 31

Notices

Sharing Faith Good News Story

One of our church members has been building a friendship with a neighbour through regular trips to the dog park. As that friendship has grown, opportunities to speak about Jesus have naturally followed. God gives each of us everyday opportunities to point others to His grace. Don't miss our Evangelism Training on Spiritual Conversations and be equipped to make the most of them.

Evangelism Training

Wednesday 22 July 7:30pm–9pm
Dinner at 7pm \$10

'Having spiritual conversations'

Scan the QR code to book





Caroline Spencer
City Bible Forum &
Willoughby Park Anglican
and Gordon Luk

We Each Care For Somone In Our Church



One of the great gifts God gives us is the church—a family where no one is meant to walk alone. Community isn't just something we enjoy passively; it's something we actively help create. Each of us can play a part by intentionally caring for someone else in our church: checking in during the week, praying for them, sharing a meal, encouraging them from God's Word, or simply noticing when they're doing it tough. Small acts of love, done consistently, help build a church where people are known, supported, and encouraged to keep following Jesus together.

Who is someone you can intentionally care for this term?

Notices

Prayer Week Reminder

We're kicking off Term 3 with a whole St Stephen's Week of Prayer (27–30 July, 7:30–8:30pm; Friday 1:30pm), with a particular focus on our friends who don't yet know Jesus.

Last year, God graciously answered the prayers we prayed during this week. As far as we know, two of the friends we prayed for have since come to profess faith in Christ. Who might God save through our prayers this year? Let's commit to praying together and ask God to do it again.



Kids & Youth Outreach Term 3



We long to see a generation of young people fearless in proclaiming Christ. That's why we run Friday Kids and Half Past Six—creating opportunities for children, teenagers, and their families to invite friends to hear about Jesus. This term, both programs are running outreach courses.

Please pray that every young person would invite a friend, and consider how you can encourage them to take that step of faith.

What's Coming Up

13 July	Come and See
16 July	Encounter
20 July	Come and See
21 July	Crafternoon
22 July	Evangelism Training

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

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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



Gordon Luk
Outreach & Spiritual Maturity
E: gordon@st-stephens.com.au



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



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



Emlyn Hoyt
Ministry Trainee
E: emlyn.hoyt@st-stephens.com.au