



WHY SERVING JESUS IS AWESOME

Week 2

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Spotlight
- Prayer for Children
- Song
- Confession & Assurance
- Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 3-5-17 (p.1144)
- Sermon
- Song
- Lord's Supper
- Prayers
- Vision Spot
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
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If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Sunday 9 August 2026

Every one of us wants our life to count. We invest ourselves in our families, our work, our homes and our communities because we long to be part of something that lasts. Yet the Bible gently reminds us that even the best things in this life are temporary. God, however, is building something that will last forever—his people.



Connect Card

Today we'll discover the surprising privilege that ordinary Christians have of sharing in God's work. Whether you're exploring Christianity, have followed Jesus for decades, or are simply visiting today, we're delighted you're here. Our prayer is that you'll see not only what God has done for us through Christ, but also the joy of being invited into his mission.

As a church, we long to be made beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ, and that begins with ordinary people serving an extraordinary Saviour.

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

Why serving Jesus is awesome | 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Preacher: Emlyn Hoyt

1. Only servants

2. God's task

Going Deeper During The Week

Opening Reflection

Try to remember the first time you heard about 'gospel ministry'. What was the first thing that came to your mind?

Going deep in God's Word

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-23

1. Fill out the following table about the two different images Paul uses.

	The Field (v.5-9)	The Building (V.10-15)
What are gospel workers likened to?		
What is the church likened to?		
What error is this metaphor guarding against?		
What comfort does this metaphor give?		

2. Discuss why Paul gives us both images. What would we lose without one and not the other? Which image challenges you more and which image do you most need to hear right now?

3. How does the context of the Corinthian church and their worldly thinking help us understand why Paul writes this (v. 1-4, and 16-23)? How do you think worldly thinking corrupts how we serve at church?

4. Summarise in your own words from this passage what it might look like for you to serve God and do gospel ministry (ie. To build, plant, water)

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, spend some time praying together.

1. Give thanks for those who God has used to bring the gospel to you in your life (who have planted seeds, watered it etc.)

2. How could God use you to do the same for others? How could you plant seeds, water, build? Pray for those people.

Spend time with God each day!

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

- How does this passage make me adore Jesus?
- How is it challenging me? How is it comforting me?
- What is something I need to do today in light of this?

Monday - 2 Corinthians 6
Tuesday - 2 Corinthians 7
Wednesday - 2 Corinthians 8
Thursday - 2 Corinthians 9
Friday - 2 Corinthians 10

Notices

Take Responsibility for my Daily Walk



“Christ’s love compels us...that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him.”

— 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Following Jesus is too important to leave on autopilot. Spiritual growth requires daily dependence on God through his Word, prayer, and his people.

What would it look like for you to take responsibility for your walk with Christ? Could you start a daily Bible and prayer habit, or join a GaP group?

Reach out via the Connect Card



Alpha after International Food Feast

A promotional poster for the Alpha Course. It features a silhouette of a person with a backpack walking away from the viewer towards a sunset over mountains. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says 'explore life faith meaning' in white and red. Below that is the Alpha logo, a red stylized 'A' with the word 'Alpha' in a small red circle. The main text says 'COME & SEE MONDAYS 7-9PM at St Stephen's Willoughby FREE DINNER INCLUDED!'. There is a QR code on the right side. At the bottom, there is a list of dates and topics, and the St Stephen's Willoughby logo and 'TryAlpha' text.

explore
life
faith
meaning

Alpha

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

Mon 17 Aug (International Food Feast) Is there more to life?
Mon 24 Aug Who is Jesus?
Mon 31 Aug Why did Jesus die?

Mon 7 Sep How can I have faith?
Mon 14 Sep Why & how do I pray?
Mon 21 Sep How do I read the Bible?

St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

TryAlpha

“When I heard about the Alpha Course, I was on the fence with my faith. I didn't know what to expect by saying yes. From day one it was engaging, dynamic and yielded some genuine connections. Having somewhere to ask the tough questions changed everything for me. The course was my gateway into a strong, grounded faith in Jesus.” — Angus M

Who could you invite to Alpha?

Notices

MTS Recruitment

The greatest need in our world is for people to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. MTS is an opportunity to be equipped for that work—learning how to share the gospel faithfully, disciple others, and serve Christ's Church. As Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37). Could God be calling you to spend next two years helping make Christ known?



Supporting St Mark's Revesby



REVESBY
ANGLICAN
CHURCH



St Stephen's
WILLOUGHBY

How encouraging it was to welcome Rev. Andrew Lim from St Mark's Revesby last week. As he opened God's word for us, we were reminded that, although we serve in different parts of Sydney, we share one gospel, one mission, and one Lord. We now have an opportunity to encourage St Mark's by helping support Andrew's leadership development and their church planning through the Reach Australia Leadership Development program.

Thank You to those who supported St Mark's. We have met our goal for this year!

Friday Kids

Friday Kids is a fun, safe after-school group for children in Kindergarten to Year 5. Join us Fridays during school terms, 3:30–5:00pm, for games, afternoon tea, Bible stories and craft.

Cost: \$5 per week.



What's Coming Up

10 August	Come and See
17 August	International Food Feast
20 August	Encounter
24 August	Alpha
24 August	Come and See

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