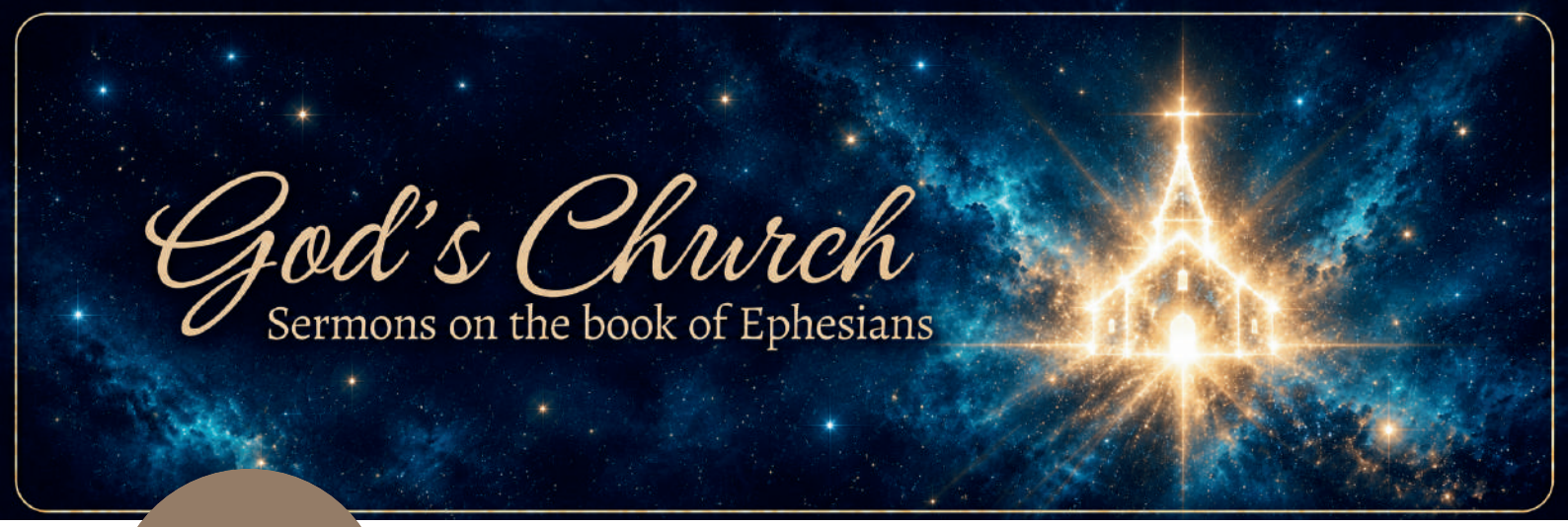


Week 4

TODAY'S 9:30AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Prayer for children
- Vision Spot
- Prayer
- Song
- Bible Reading: Ephesians 3:1-13 (p.1174)
- Sermon
- Song
- Lord's Supper
- Song
- Closing Prayer

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.

Sunday 1 November 2026

Connect Card

Welcome to St Stephen's! Today we continue our series in Ephesians, discovering God's wonderful purposes for his church. What is the church actually for? We might think about our Sunday services, children's programs, friendships and opportunities to serve. These are all wonderful things. But Ephesians gives us a much bigger picture of what God is doing through his church.

Paul tells us that God has revealed his extraordinary plan in Jesus: people from every nation and background can now belong to him together through the gospel. And remarkably, God has chosen the church to display his wisdom, even to the heavenly realms! That means an ordinary local church like St Stephen's is part of something much bigger than ourselves. As people come to know Jesus and are brought together as his people, God's wonderful purposes are being revealed.

Our prayer is that God would make us beautiful, diverse and large by the gracious work of Christ - hinting at his great purposes.

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 November 22 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

God's Church - Mission & Purpose | Ephesians 3:1-13

Preacher: Gordon Luk

1. We're at a glorious moment in God's history: *the mystery is now revealed* (vv. 2-5)

2. We're gloriously united as one through the gospel: *co-heirs in Christ* (vv. 6-9)

3. We're the result of God's Plan accomplished in Christ: *God's widsom shown through the church* (vv. 10-12)

4. Someone was willing to suffer for us: *my sufferings are your glory* (vv. 1, 13)

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

Opening Reflection

When you think about all that God has created, what displays His glory and wisdom to you the most?

📖 Going deep in God's Word

Read Ephesians 3:1-13

1. Split up into pairs or smaller groups and work through the following table.

	v2-6	v7-9	v10-13
What are some key/repeated words or ideas?			
Which verse in this section is the key verse for you and why?			
Write a heading for this section that summarises Paul's main point.			

2. Why do you think Paul is saying all this to the Ephesian church? What temptations might they have (and might we have) to look down on God's Church?

3. How does the Church display the manifold wisdom of God (v. 10)? What makes God's Church glorious (v. 5-6, 11-12)?

4. How should God's view and plan for His Church impact how we:
   (a) Gather as His church every week
   (b) Relate to others in His church at St Stephen's

🙏 Praying big prayers shaped by the gospel

In light of God's Word, pray for us as individuals and also us as God's glorious church.

For ourselves:

1. Thank God for all He has done for you in Christ and for joining you into His glorious Church
2. Pray that we would come to church each week and relate with other church members in a way that reflects the glorious wisdom of God shown through how He has joined us together as His church.

For St Stephen's:

3. That through us, many would see the glorious wisdom of Christ revealed in the gospel we preach
4. Especially for our upcoming Carols and Christmas, that the light of the gospel would shine bright through us to the friends/neighbours we invite.

Read the Bible with us!

After reading each passage, use ACTS framework to help you listen carefully to God's Word and respond to Him in prayer:

1. Adoration: What does this passage show you about God? Praise him for it.
2. Confession: Where does it challenge your thoughts or actions? Bring that honestly to God.
3. Thanksgiving: What comfort, promise or gift can you thank God for that He has shown you in this passage?
4. Supplication: What help do you need to live out what you've read today? Ask God for it

Monday – Ephesians 5:1-5
Tuesday – Ephesians 5:6-14
Wednesday – Ephesians 5:15-20
Thursday – Ephesians 5:21-27
Friday – Ephesians 5:28-32

Notices

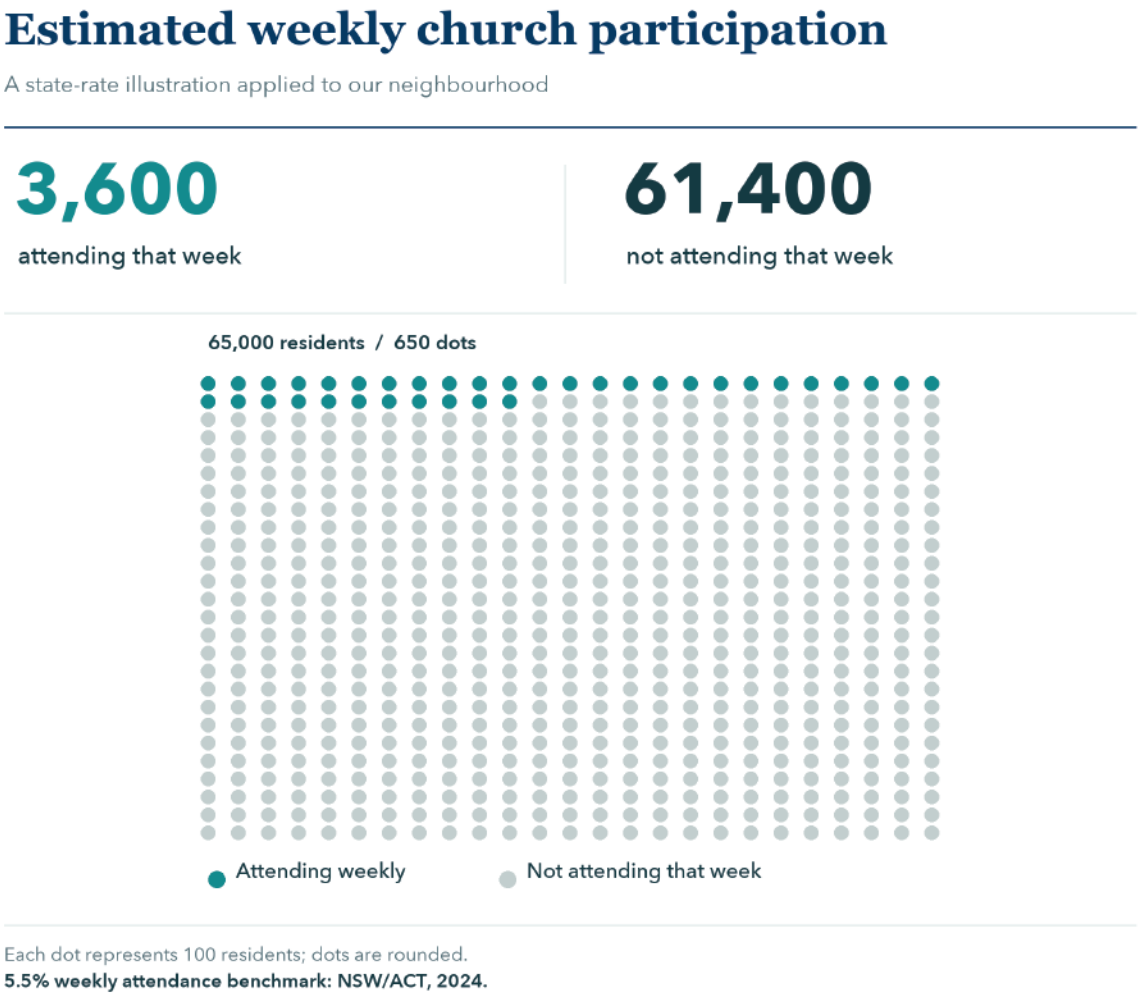
Ephesians: move toward a new friendship at church

Last week we were encouraged to move toward someone who, like us is united to Jesus, but is different in other ways - to experience the miraculous unity of the gospel. Look around, who can you get to know in our congregation and encourage in their faith? Chat with staff if you'd like help in taking a next step in this.

Our 2027 hope: New staff & more joining on Sundays

We are so compelled by the needs of over 61,000 people in our neighbourhood who do not know Jesus. We want them to know us and so to meet Christ. We are embarking on an outrageous plan to bring a new staff member on and increase the number of people coming on Sundays to over 300 by 2030. Will you partner with us?





Notices

Invite a Friend to Carols on the Grass



Friday Kids: Helping Children Meet Jesus

Every Friday, around 20 kids gather at Friday Kids—most from homes where Jesus isn't known. This is about far more than an afternoon of games and fun. Their eternities are being shaped. Every week is an opportunity to open God's word, point kids to Jesus and pray that they would come to know him. Want to get involved? Pray, join the team, come along or bring a friend.



What's Coming Up

2 November	Come and See
3 November	Playtime
6 November	Friday Kids Big Week
15 November	Parish Gift Day
22 November	Belonging

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

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