

ST TOM'S

MAY NEWS

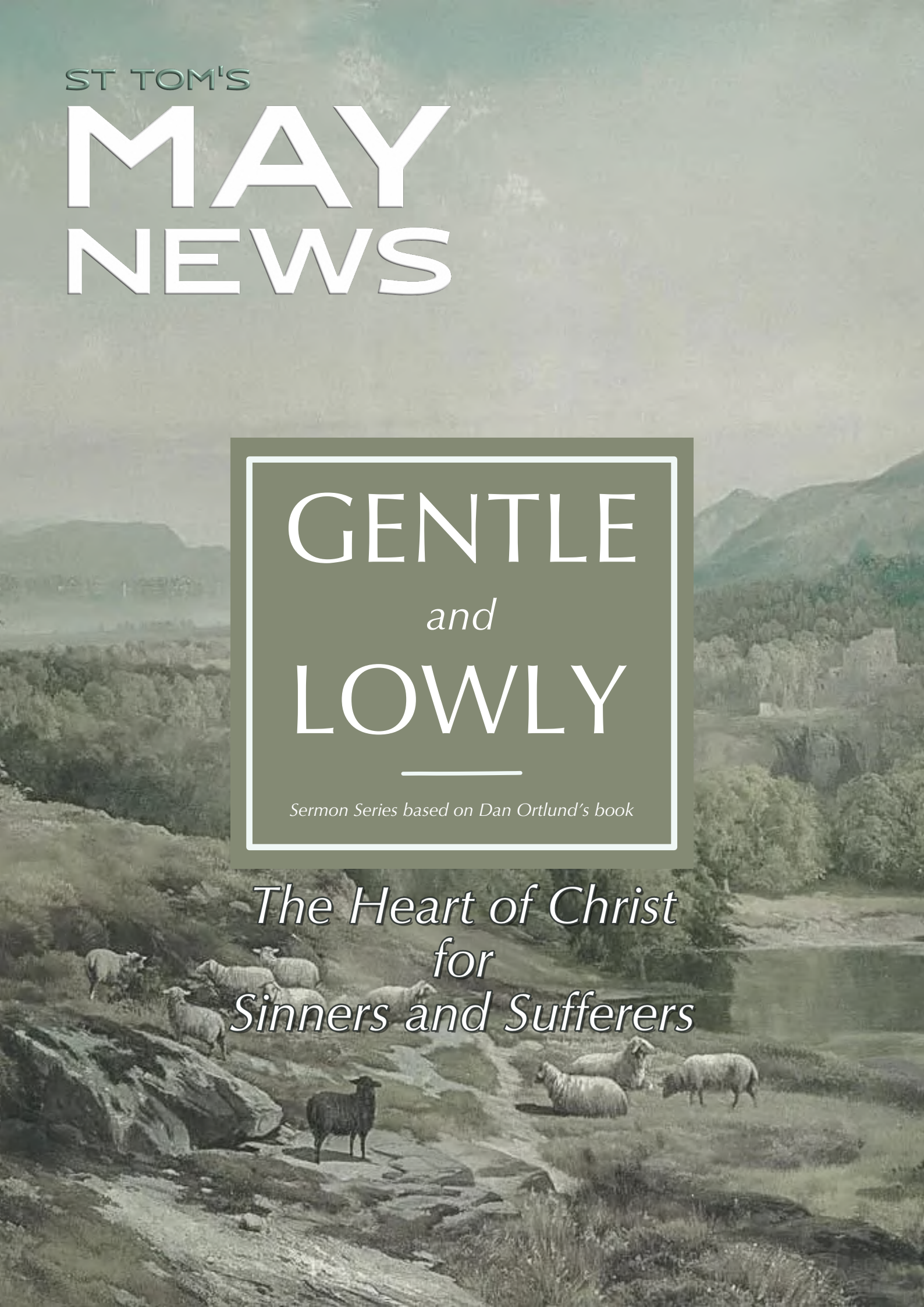
GENTLE

and

LOWLY

Sermon Series based on Dan Ortlund's book

*The Heart of Christ
for
Sinners and Sufferers*





May Sermon Series	3
Reflection - John Carrick	4
Podcast Recommendations	5
<i>Ridley Chapel Sermons</i>	5
<i>Ridley College Public Lectures</i>	5
<i>With all due respect</i>	5
Mission News	6
Prison Fellowship	6
Community News	7
CLAY Youth Camp - Save the date!	7
Church Retreat - Save the Date!	7
Cantonese Lunch and Chinese Bible study	8
Eucalypts	8
Finance Update	8
Introducing: Introducing God	9
Contact details	11
Child Safety Officers	11
Family Safety Champion	11
Wardens	11
St Tom's Hope	11
Staff & Ministry Team	12

MAY SERMON SERIES

In May we will be starting our new Sermon Series based on the book *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund. Who is Christ really? What does the Bible say about the heart of Christ?

“It is one thing to know the doctrines of the incarnation and the atonement and a hundred other vital doctrines. It is another, more searching matter to know his heart for you”

You’re encouraged to read the book as we progress through the series. St Tom’s has books available for purchase for \$20.

SERIES	DATE	TITLE / INFO	SCRIPTURE	PREACHER ST TOM'S	PREACHER ST ED'S
Gentle and Lowly	7 May	His Very Heart	Matt 11:28-30	8.15: Ros 10.30: John	Ros
Gentle and Lowly	14 May	Able to Sympathise	Heb 4:15	8.15: John 10.30: Joshua	John
	21 May	8.15: Ascension 10am: Messy Church	Acts 1:1-11	8.15: Ros	Ros
Gentle and Lowly	28 May	I will Never Cast Out	John 6:35-40	8.15: Ros 10.30: John	Ros

For additional readings see [2023 Planner & Sermon Series](#) on Elvanto or request a copy by emailing admin@sttoms.org

REFLECTION - JOHN CARRICK



I have had a wonderful long service leave. I don't think a day went by that I didn't feel grateful to our God for this time.

I have now enjoyed two lots of LSL. I cannot remember much about my first LSL, what I do remember, however, is that my prayer time was greatly diminished. Perhaps it was the absence of my usual rhythm, or being around family on holidays, whatever it was, I found it all too easy to let my spiritual disciplines of prayer, bible reading and reflection, simply slip away. The LSL I have just enjoyed was much different. I was far more conscientious of maintaining time with God. I hope this might be an indication that I have grown in Christ during the intervening time between the LSL.

My usual practice is to read a Psalm each day as part of my quiet-time, however, during my leave, I decided to sit with one Psalm for each week. The Psalm I started with was Psalm 84. The verse that stood out stated:

"Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage."

(Psalm 84:5 NIV11)

I felt I was beginning a type of pilgrimage at the beginning of my leave. I desperately desired it to be a time of refreshment for my soul. I wondered, what does pilgrimage look like for me as a Christian? My thoughts went to Paul's

wonderful declaration to the church of Galatia:

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

(Galatians 2:20 NIV11)

It was the 2nd sentence that drew my attention, '*The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.*' I thought, here is a statement of pilgrimage. Life in this temporal body is to be lived by faith in Jesus the Son of God and in the fact that he has displayed his love once and for all, for me and for you, on the cross where he gave himself for me and for you!

As we live our lives, there will be challenges that will cause doubt, cause us to question much and threaten our spiritual vibrancy. But in the face of every difficulty, we by faith hold to the truth, that the Son of God loved us - a love displayed vividly on the cross where he gave himself for us.

Never forget, the Lord Jesus has profoundly shown his love for you. Continue to apply that truth to your whole life as you continue on in your own pilgrimage toward him who gave himself for you.

John

PODCAST RECOMMENDATIONS

Ridley Chapel Sermons

Zealous and Wise by Joshua Millard



Chapel is a key part of the community life at Ridley College, praising God, praying together, and meeting God in his word.

St Tom's Assistant Minister Joshua Millard preached at Ridley Chapel on Tuesday 28 March 2023. All Ridley Chapel sermons can be found here: [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#). Joshua's sermon can be found directly [here!](#)

Ridley College Public Lectures

A Less Straight Forward Future by Stephen McAlpine

Recommended by Karen Morris:

" 'I recently went to a reverse autopsy!' began Stephen McAlpine in the recent Alf Stanway Lecture in Mission at Ridley. It made me sit up and take notice! Stephen analyses culture and evangelism and concludes that 'Christianity has so much to offer in a world where there is a no redemption available, and no-one to declare forgiveness.' He explains that expressive individualism leads to cultures riven with anxiety, and that Christianity and, in particular Jesus, are a genuine answer. I was incredibly encouraged to reach out to the world with kindness for the glory God. If you want to be re-energised in your love for God, our church and your world listen to this! Listen [here!](#)"

With all due respect

The WADR Project



Recommended by Denise Clarke

" The *With all Due Respect* podcast features ordained Baptist minister Megan Powell du Toit and Sydney Anglican minister Michael Jensen in conversation with each other and with guests. Do they disagree on many things? Yes! including politics, feminism, education and free will. But they are also friends with a lot in common, so they want to disagree, where they do, with respect for the other. And to model such respectful disagreement. recent episodes have dealt with the Voice to Parliament , an Easter special on grace, the family, the nature of time, and that controversial post for the US Gospel Coalition."

Listen on [Spotify](#) or [Apple Podcasts](#).

MISSION NEWS

PRISON FELLOWSHIP



We're very excited to see new opportunities opening up in Victorian prisons! Here's a brief snapshot of what has been happening recently:

SLAM

Our SLAM soccer team were able to return to action late last year and spent a day playing soccer with people at Dhurringile Prison. They hope to return there soon and are also planning a trip to Marngoneet Prison. Their visits are appreciated very much by both staff and inmates.

Visiting in Prison

Many of our volunteers have returned to visiting people in prison each week. Our team visiting Fulham CC recently returned and were so happy to get back to what they were doing before 2020. Late last year a new volunteer began regular visits to Tarrengower Prison which is exciting as it is a new opportunity opening up. We are also training and preparing teams to facilitate The Prisoner's Journey and Change On The Inside in several prisons across Victoria. We already have a booking to run TPJ in Dhurringile Prison in May.

Easter Biscuit Bake:

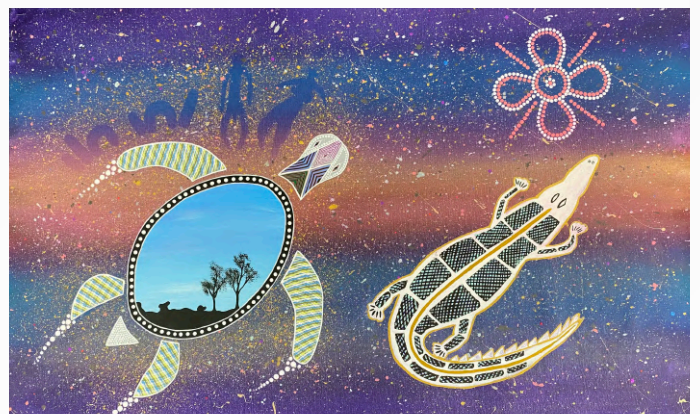
We had a huge response to our Easter Biscuit Bake Program this year. Once again, a simple thing such as some home-made biscuits has a significant impact on people in prisons, prison staff and the hundreds of people contributing.

Art from Inside

Our theme for this year is Amazing Grace with the supporting verse coming from Ephesians 2:8:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

Last year we had some truly amazing artwork. This program gives people a unique opportunity to demonstrate their specific talents and skills in response to our theme.



2022 Theme: Restoration. Two people on a journey together towards becoming reconciled and restored to each other.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone at St Tom's for your valuable support. It is so encouraging to have you standing with us and partnering with us in this ministry!

COMMUNITY NEWS



CLAY Youth Camp
Thursday June 29th – Sunday July 2nd



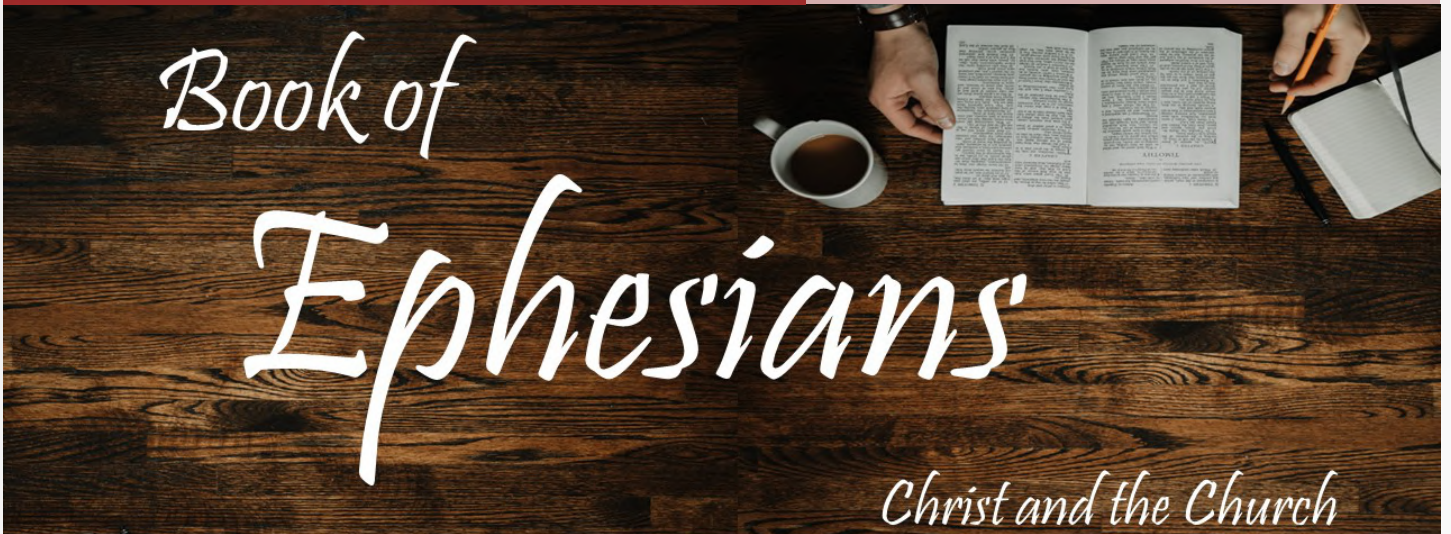
Residents of Fountain Court. A service with Holy Communion occurs monthly 3rd Thursday at 11:30 am. You're welcome to join.

Next service will be: 11:30 am Thursday 18 May in the Library

CANTONESE LUNCH AND CHINESE BIBLE STUDY



Cantonese congregation is having weekly after-service lunch and bible study in the square. At the moment we are reading Ephesians, we encourage everyone Cantonese congregation to join us in sharing God's words."



EUCALYPTS



Eucalypts will be meeting on Thursday 11th of May at 1pm at St Tom's. Meet and Greet with St Edward's! Contact Ros: rosa@sttoms.org

STAMPS FOR BUSH CHURCH AID



Please save your used stamps, especially those collected over Christmas for BCA as they get money for them. You are welcome to put the whole envelope in the stamp box in front of the office!

FINANCE UPDATE

Year to date collections as at the end of March were down 12.5% (\$28,800) compared to budget. Expenses for the same period were in line with budget. Please continue to pray for our church finances and, if appropriate, review you existing giving. Contact Brenton Winter for more information treasurer@sttoms.org.

INTRODUCING: INTRODUCING GOD

Starting July 20th 2023!

At St Tom's we aim to introduce people to Jesus. The primary way we do this is through personal relationships. Maybe your friends, family, neighbours, or workmates are at the point of seriously investigating the Bible and the claims about Jesus. To help in this we are going to run a short course called *Introducing God*. This course, running in Term 3, will explain Christianity to a non-Christian in an accessible way. We will continue to run Alpha and use this series as another option.

There are 6 weekly sessions involving a 30min video followed by open discussion. Come with your non-Christian friends and encourage them as they find out about Jesus. You can also bring brand new believers - but tourists ('I just want to see it') aren't helpful in this group. If your friends have done Alpha and still have questions this is a good next step.

To find out more contact Karen Morris at karenm@sttoms.org, and to investigate the course watch the videos at [Introducing God](#).



FINANCES



Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV

If you consider St Tom's your church then please prayerfully consider giving financially to its ministry. The running of St Tom's relies upon the generosity of its members. Below you can see the amounts which are required on a monthly basis for running our church. Most people find giving either by Direct Debit, or online, the most convenient way and setting their giving to reoccur monthly or weekly.

There are many ways to give financially, such as:



Direct Debit
(see account details below)



Online with a Credit / Debit Card - go to sttoms.org/give or via tithe.ly scan



Cash or Cheque, into the offering taken up during our services

St Tom's encourage giving electronically:

	Account Name	BSB	Account No.	Monthly Required
General Account	St Thomas Burwood	063-112	1039 7091	\$ 38,200
Building Fund	St Thomas ADF Building Fund	703-122	0500 5091	\$ 3,800
Necessitous Circumstances (TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)	St Thomas Burwood	063-112	1054 9390	
St Tom's Hope (TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)	St Toms Hope LTD	633-000	159591023	\$ 1,000

CONTACT DETAILS

	Coordinator	Email	Mobile
Small Groups	Denise Clarke	denisec@sttoms.org	0438 595 527
Meals	Lyndie Gebert	meals@sttoms.org	0417 304 894
Handy Help	Peter Crandle	handyhelp@sttoms.org	
Pastoral Care	Annette Ward	pastoralcare@sttoms.org	0411 624 573
Prayer Circle (prayer requests)	Yvonne Edwards	prayer@sttoms.org	0432 477 766
Women's Mentoring	Position vacant		

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Catherine Hallyburton and Ming Lau are our Child Safety Officers. Contact details back page.

FAMILY SAFETY CHAMPION

Lyndie Gebert	gebertll@gmail.com	0417 304 894
Ida Mak 麥趙淑貞	idascmak@gmail.com	0488 332 438

WARDENS

Ida Mak 麥趙淑貞	idascmak@gmail.com	0488 332 438
Ruth Kernebone	ruthk@ozemail.com.au	0408 345 136
Steve Tong	tongsyc@gmail.com	0459 453 847

ST TOM'S HOPE

Josephine Armstrong	English Class Coordinator	josephinea@sttomshope.org	0488 022 103
Melinda van der Westhuizen	Kids Hope Coordinator	mva66253@gmail.com	0403 182 654
Paula Adams- Grant	Coach Coordinator Hope Filled Bags	paulaa@sttomshope.org	0438 899 630



STAFF & MINISTRY TEAM

John Carrick	Lead Minister	johnc@sttoms.org	0412 438 021
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN			
Ros Armstrong	Assistant Minister	rosa@sttoms.org	0438 706 815
WORK DAYS: MON (ST), WED (SE), THU (SE), SUN			
Joshua Millard	Assistant Minister	joshuam@sttoms.org	0450 638 890
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SUN			
Rachel Gijbers Hayman	Children & Families Coordinator	rachelgh@sttoms.org	0413 158 010
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, SUN			
Joey Chan	Assistant Chinese Minister	joeyc@sttoms.org	0481 238 631
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN			
Karen Morris	Evangelistic Ministries Coordinator	<u>karenm@sttoms.org</u>	0417 765 210
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE			
Tracy Chen	Pastoral Care Intern	tracyc@sttoms.org	0430 656 456
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU			
Denise Clarke	Small Groups Ministry	denisec@sttoms.org	0438 595 527
WORK DAYS: NO PARTICULAR DAY			
Catherine Hallyburton	Admin Assistant / Child Safe Officer	admin@sttoms.org	9808 3250 0481 830 261 <small>SMS</small>
IN THE OFFICE MON & THU 9:30 AM - 3:30 AM, & WED (WFH) 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM			
Ming Lau	Chinese Admin / Child Safe Officer	ch.admin@sttoms.org	0402 581 838
MON, THU (THU - IN THE OFFICE 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM)			