



# September 2024

St Thomas' Anglican Church Burwood

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## sermon series

It is always good to come back to the gospel, to move beyond being familiar with the outline of Christ's life, teaching, death, and resurrection to going deeper, seeing new things, and understanding passages you previously did not understand.

In recent years, we have gone through Mark and John's gospels; now, we turn to Luke's gospel. Initially, I planned to go through as much of Luke as we could, finishing by Advent. As I was preparing, reading, and listening to the gospel, the more I felt that Luke's gospel required more time—more time for the Gospel to speak to us and to address what is unique to Luke's account.

*John*



# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE





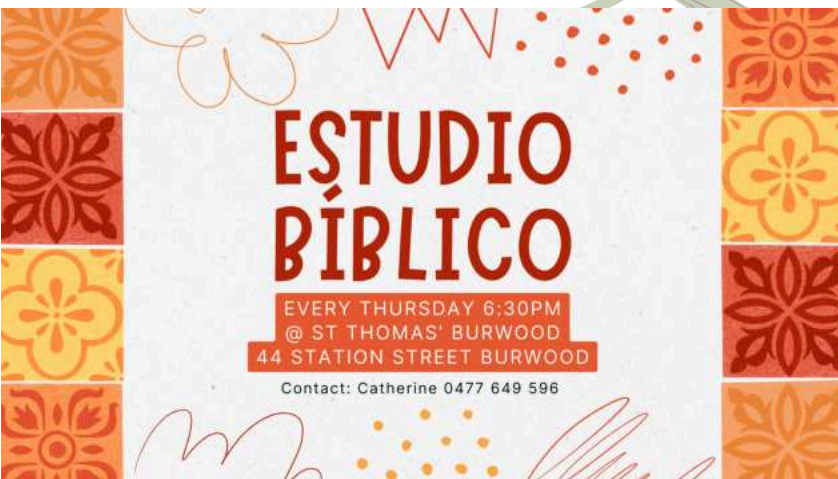
At our Bible study we have Peru, Colombia, México and Chile represented 🇮🇵 🇪🇨 🇲🇽 🇨🇱 Countries in Latin America are culturally catholic, this means that everyone has so much knowledge of stories in the Bible, especially parables.

Spanish Small Group has been meeting weekly since April!! It's a highlight of the week for everyone who attends. We meet at church, have dinner together and then read the Bible and pray. We're currently reading through the book of Mark and using the same 5 questions from Uncover Mark (<https://uncover.org.au/mark/read/>) and we use them to dive into what it says. Each week we have found so many examples of faith and it has been encouraging us to live out this faith each week in our own lives.



People are also very open to praying and giving thanks to God. The main focus in our study is to move past this cultural knowledge - to use this knowledge to explore the Bible further and to understand the role of Jesus in the Bible and it's application to our life.

Of course reading the Bible together is the main thing, but it has also been great to enjoy the Latin American culture together, the warmth and family we all get from this group is so valuable! Not too long ago we had a social night where we had dinner, listened to Latin music, and everyone joined in a 'Pichanga' (casual soccer game). Praise God for this amazing community, and pray for its growth, that many people who are far from home can find family in this group.



*Catherine*

Spanish Small Group



# Baptism

10 English 28 July



The joy at a baptism service is palpable. After the baptisms on the 28th of July, many of the following remarks were said to me by both members and visitors:

*"What a joy-filled service!"*

*"That was great!"*

*"What a wonderful service!"*

*"I loved that service!"*

It's been a year of significant growth for St Tom's, with more baptisms than usual. We celebrated four baptisms on Easter Sunday, a baptism along with five confirmations and one reception on the 18th of May, another three baptisms on the 28th of May, and most recently, a teenage boy travelled from China so that he might be baptised. Joey baptised the young man on 11th August. Each of these baptisms is a testament to the welcoming and nurturing community we have here at St Tom's.

For me, this service was a high point. Our worship was led masterfully; the music and song leading helped us express our joy and praise. What a delight to hear young people boldly declare their faith and intention to follow Christ. Praise God for what he is doing in the lives of a new generation. May we see many more, and may God equip us to nurture the fledging faith of new Christians.

*John*





# 10 AM Mandarin Baptism 11/08/2024



Aaron recently travelled from China to Melbourne to be baptised, a profound step in his commitment to his faith in Christ. We thank God for his dedication and the unwavering support of his close friends, as well as his family, who have stood by him on this spiritual journey.

Aaron has found a home at St Thomas, where he has been uplifted by the warmth and fellowship of the community. He especially loves attending Clay on Friday nights and the Sunday Mandarin service, both have enriched his time in Melbourne. We pray that God continues to guide Aaron, shining His light on the path ahead as he grows deeper in his walk with Christ.



*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*  
Matthew 28:19

Made by Aaron's mum







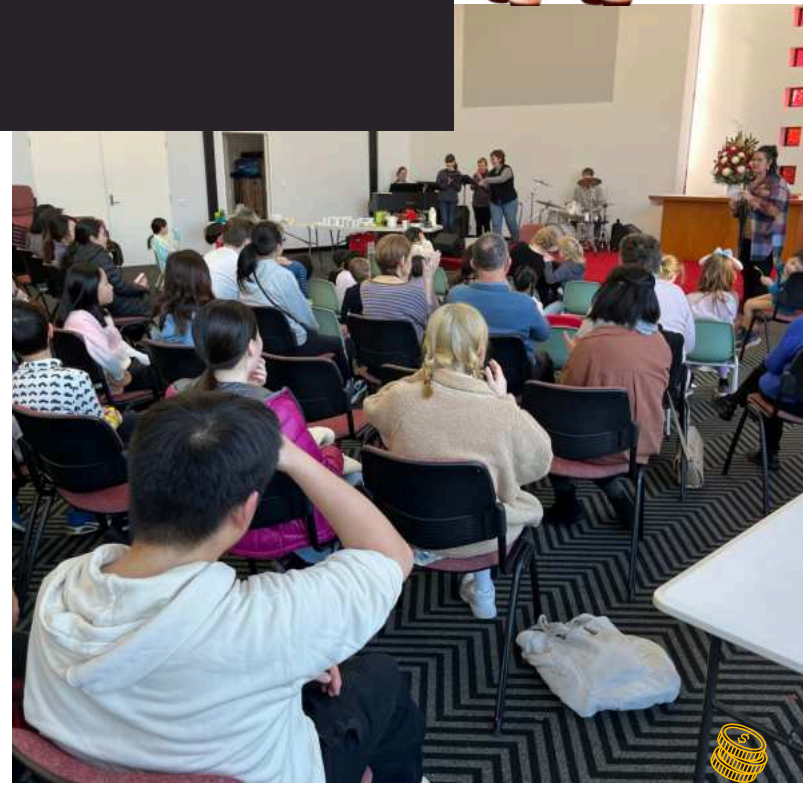
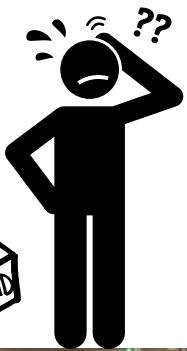
Messy Church has become a special place for families, especially those with young children. It's a fun and welcoming gathering that brings together people from playgroups and community programs. It has been a great Sunday church experience for young children.

On August 4th, we had our term 3 messy church - "Lost and Found"



# MESSY CHURCH

working together with the Mandarin congregation. We had total of 123 people joined us, including eight visitors.





Ros shared the story of the Prodigal Son, with Tracy translating live so everyone could understand and enjoy the message.

The best part of Messy Church is the hands-on activities. Families had a blast making treasure boxes and delicious sweet treats. The excitement grew when Sherlock Hayman led everyone on a fun adventure to find lost items. Laughter and joy filled the room as everyone got involved.



Messy Church is more than just crafts and snacks; it's about bringing people together and sharing in faith. It creates a warm and friendly atmosphere where families can connect and grow together. We love seeing new faces and making memories that will last a lifetime. If you haven't joined us yet, we'd love to welcome you to our next gathering!



The adults had fun too





**At the women's retreat this year, our Bible studies centred around three women from the Old Testament. They are not particularly well known, yet each plays a pivotal role in God's story. They are very different in many ways.**

*Hagar, Abigail and Huldah.*

**23~25 August Women Retreat**





**Hagar's story is the original Handmaid's Tale. An Egyptian slave forced to act as a surrogate mother for Sarai, she is mistreated and finally cast out to die in the desert. But she is met and rescued by God, the God whom she names 'the God who sees'.**



**Abigail, described as 'clever and beautiful', is also wise, resourceful, courageous and prophetic. She turns back David and four hundred armed men, thus defying her husband, but saving her household from death and David from blood guilt. She prophesies David's future as King.**



**Huldah is also a prophet, the one chosen by five high ranking officials sent by King Josiah to inquire of the Lord concerning Judah's future.**



**Hagar is part of the story of Abraham, Abigail part of the story of David, and Huldah part of the story of King Josiah. Yet each in their own way disrupts and subverts the patriarchal narrative of which they are a part.**

*Denise Clarke*







The 2024 Women's Retreat was filled with warmth, relaxation, and heartfelt connections. We spent time learning about three incredible women in the Bible while also getting to know each other better. It was wonderful to chat with familiar faces and make new friends with people we've seen around but never had the chance to connect with before. We thank God for the opportunity to come together in this cross-cultural and joyful event, and we can't wait for the next one!

Women Retreat Team - Amanda, Ellen, Megan, Ros, Denise, Tracy, Rachel





St Thomas'  
BURWOOD

St Edward  
the Confessor King  
Anglican Church,  
Blackburn South

# Women's Retreat

## 聖多馬女士退修營



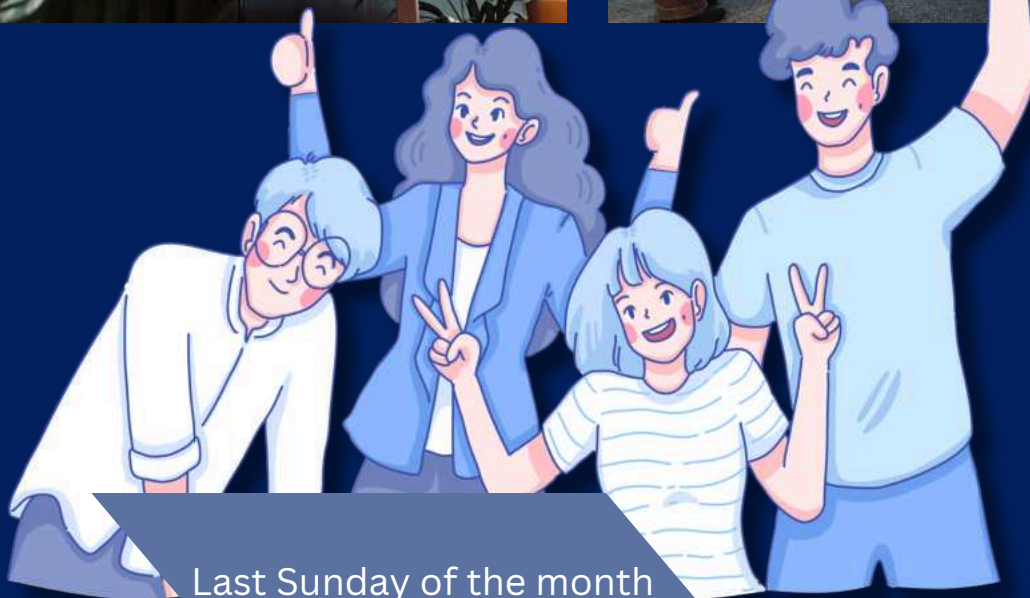
QUEENSLIFF  
23RD - 25TH AUGUST 2024





# FELLOWSHIP

*Young Adults*



Last Sunday of the month  
5PM - 7:30PM

Young Adults Fellowship is an awesome new group for anyone aged 18-25! We get together to explore the Bible, talk about what Jesus teaches us, reflect on life, share our thoughts, and pray for each other. We pray to see more and more of our St Toms people joining us.

We are exploring our identity in Christ this year.

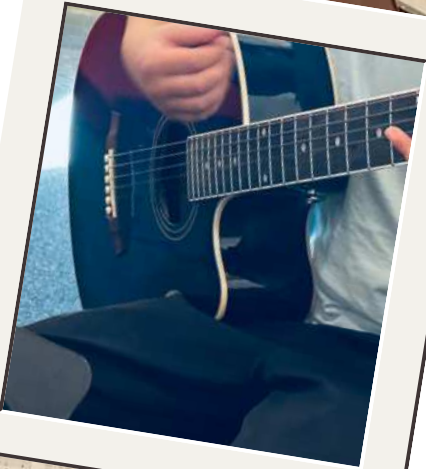
It's such a fun time filled with laughter, games, deeper connections, and of course, lots of yummy food! We're also planning a super fun outing in December, possibly an escape room adventure.

If you're 18-25, we'd love for you to join us! Just contact [tracyc@sttoms.org](mailto:tracyc@sttoms.org) for more details.



*Tracy*





The Mandarin Praise and Worship teams are made up of awesome young people who love playing instruments like violins, viola, piano, cello, flute, drums, guitars, and more..... plus, we have some amazing singers! Our teams are led by Yuling, Mena, Hans, Elly, and Sean. Everyone gives their best to worship God through music.



We practice every week after Sunday service. While the adults are in Bible study, the young people hang out with others at church, then we all have lunch together before starting practice in the afternoon. It's such a fun time for fellowship, growing in our faith, and building friendships. We love using our gifts to serve God and worship together as a team!

# Mandarin worship team



Joey and Tracy



# STAFF

## UPDATE



**St. Tom's is delighted to have Hannah P. as our new Administrative Assistant!**

Hannah, a student at Monash University and parishioner at Ormond Anglican, has already been making a positive impact in our community. Her dedication and warmth have been a wonderful addition to our team. Hannah is in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9 am to 2 pm, always ready to help with a smile. We are excited to be working alongside her!

**We're so thankful for all the hard work Catherine put in during her time at St. Tom's! She's been such a blessing to St Toms. As she heads off to pursue her passion in teaching we'll be keeping her in our prayers. Wishing her all the best in this exciting new chapter.**



**Tracy is now licensed for Lay Ministry.**

As a Lay Minister, Tracy will continue to gain valuable pastoral and ministry experience across all of St. Tom's congregations. She has now become a key member of the Youth Ministry Team, and her language skills in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English, along with her deep cultural awareness, are incredible assets to our ministries, especially in serving our youth. Tracy's unique gifts are a blessing to our community, and we're excited to see how God will use her in this important role.





# what to expect

## September

- 08 Mission Sunday
- 08 Guess who's coming to Dinner
- 14 MidAutumn Festival

## October

- 13 Mission Sunday
- 19 St Tom's working Bee (TBC)

## November

- 10 St Tom's Thanks giving service and AGM  
(Combined Service)

## December

- 08 Christmas Carnival (Family and Kids friendly)
- 24 Christmas Eve Family Service (Combine)
- 24 Christmas Eve 11PM Service (English)
- 25 Christmas Day English Service (9AM)
- 25 Christmas Day Chinese Service (10AM)

## Our Finish Well appeal has started

To make our 23-24 budget  
we need to raise an extra \$70,000 on top of our current monthly giving.  
Please prayerfully give toward this goal.

### Give via Tithely



### Direct Deposit

St Thomas Burwood  
BSB: 063-112  
ACC: 1039 7091  
Ref: Finish Well



## Staff Contact Details

John Carrick	Lead Minister <b>WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN</b>	johnc@sttoms.org	0412 438 021
Ros Armstrong	Congregations Minister (8:15   10:15 St Edward's) <b>WORK DAYS: MON , WED, THU, SUN</b>	rosa@sttoms.org	0438 706 815
Joey Chan	Chinese Congregations Minister <b>WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN</b>	joeyc@sttoms.org	0481 238 631
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Karen Morris	Evangelistic Ministries Coordinator <b>WORK DAYS: MON, TUE</b>	karenm@sttoms.org	0417 765 210
Tracy Chen	Assistant Lay Minister <b>WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SUN</b>	tracyc@sttoms.org	0430 656 456
Hannah Parkin	Admin Assistant <b>WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU</b>	admin@sttoms.org	9808 3250 0481 830 261 <small>SMS</small>



FEEDBACK



VOLUNTEER



GIVE



ST TOM'S HOPE





**We are one church with four diverse congregations that meet on Sundays and throughout the week.**

**Our congregations are made up of all ages.**

**We seek to share the good news of God's love, found in Jesus Christ, with those around us, in caring and practical ways. We'd love to welcome you into our community.**



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