

ST THOMAS

DECEMBER

BURWOOD

2024



LIVING + GROWING + SERVING + PROCLAIMING IN CHRIST

Staff Contact Details

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	Mon , Wed, Thu, Sun		
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	MON, TUE, THU, SUN		
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FEEDBACK



VOLUNTEER



GIVE



ST TOM'S HOPE

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ReVision

A Revitalise Australia Workshop
By City to City Australia

St Thomas' Burwood

CONSULTANT: ROD MORRIS

St Tom's had a Revision Workshop on 22-23 November 2024. Key members of St Tom's came together to be guided through a ReVision exercise by Rod Morris from City to City.

Median age of church membership? **35**

Median age of the community served? **33**

Average youth attendance? **10**

Trend in youth attendance? **GROWING**

Average child attendance? **19**

Trend in child attendance? **PLATEAUED**

You can find all the information on Elvanto

LIVING + GROWING + SERVING + PROCLAIMING IN CHRIST

In 5-10 years' time, St Tom's will be a thriving and growing church, joyfully living together under Christ as a cross-cultural, intergenerational family. Empowered by the Spirit, our people will be faithfully disciplined, trained in God's Word and supported to grow as followers of Jesus to lead and serve each other, our local neighbourhoods and our world in need. We will be committed to deliberate local and global evangelism through relevant ministries.

Being a praying church,

Whole of life discipleship and effective small group ministry, enabling people to use their gifts for mission, service, and outreach.

Exceptional children's, youth & young adult's ministry.

Effective integration, pastoral care, and support of members, rejoicing in God's grace to us, and celebrating our common life as a multicultural church.

In 2025 we will strengthen engagement and commitment in our community life with a focus on strengthening relationships and pastoral care, with progress assessed quarterly, a church retreat and four events to encourage community, and 20% increase in participation in church life.

Articulating who we are, why we do what we do, and what our vision is (often),

Do something to improve pastoral care by fixing the sound proofing and reducing noise level.

Promote small group participation in the lead up to the new year

Introduce a prayer diary to encourage prayer for the church

You can find all the information on Elvanto



St Thomas'
BURWOOD

LIVING + GROWING + SERVING + PROCLAIMING

IN CHRIST

在基督裏

生活+成長+服事+宣揚

for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5



Praise the Lord for His grace!

BAPTISM



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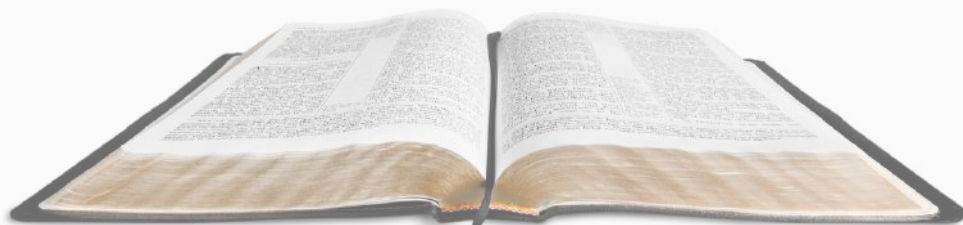
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From October 1 to November 5, we held the Chinese congregation's Faith Exploration Class every Tuesday evening. After sharing dinner, we discussed topics such as “Does God exist?”, “Can we trust the Bible?”, and “Who is Jesus?”. The materials, thoughtfully prepared by a Chinese pastor in Melbourne, combined classical and presuppositional apologetics, offering particular help to friends with an atheistic background.

Each session had 7-8 participants, including 4 guests, 3 of whom joined from the English class. One sister got baptised on December 22, and three have already started the New Believer Class, with one preparing for baptism next year.

Special thanks to speaker Jacky Hou, Tracy Chen, and Hadley Wu for preparing meals and assisting, as well as to those who prayed faithfully for this ministry. At the conclusion of one gathering, our team spontaneously offered thanksgiving to God, recognising His mercy in allowing us not only to proclaim His goodness but also to participate in His harvest.

Let us continue to respond to Jesus’ call with prayer and action, taking every thought captive to Christ!



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Merry
Christmas

Christmas Carnival



Staff Christmas Dinner



**THOUGH WE ARE MANY
WE ARE ONE BODY IN UNION WITH CHRIST**



PlayGroup Kitchen ladies @ party

Frist ever Clay KK





**Christmas Eve
5PM service**



WCC† whitehorse churches care

lunch @ St Thomas' BURWOOD



John the donkey
John the sheep



Every term, we grill John the Vicar by asking him tricky theology questions. Everyone enjoys getting to know Jesus through asking him the burning questions.



our gifts and what we could do for people at St Tom's

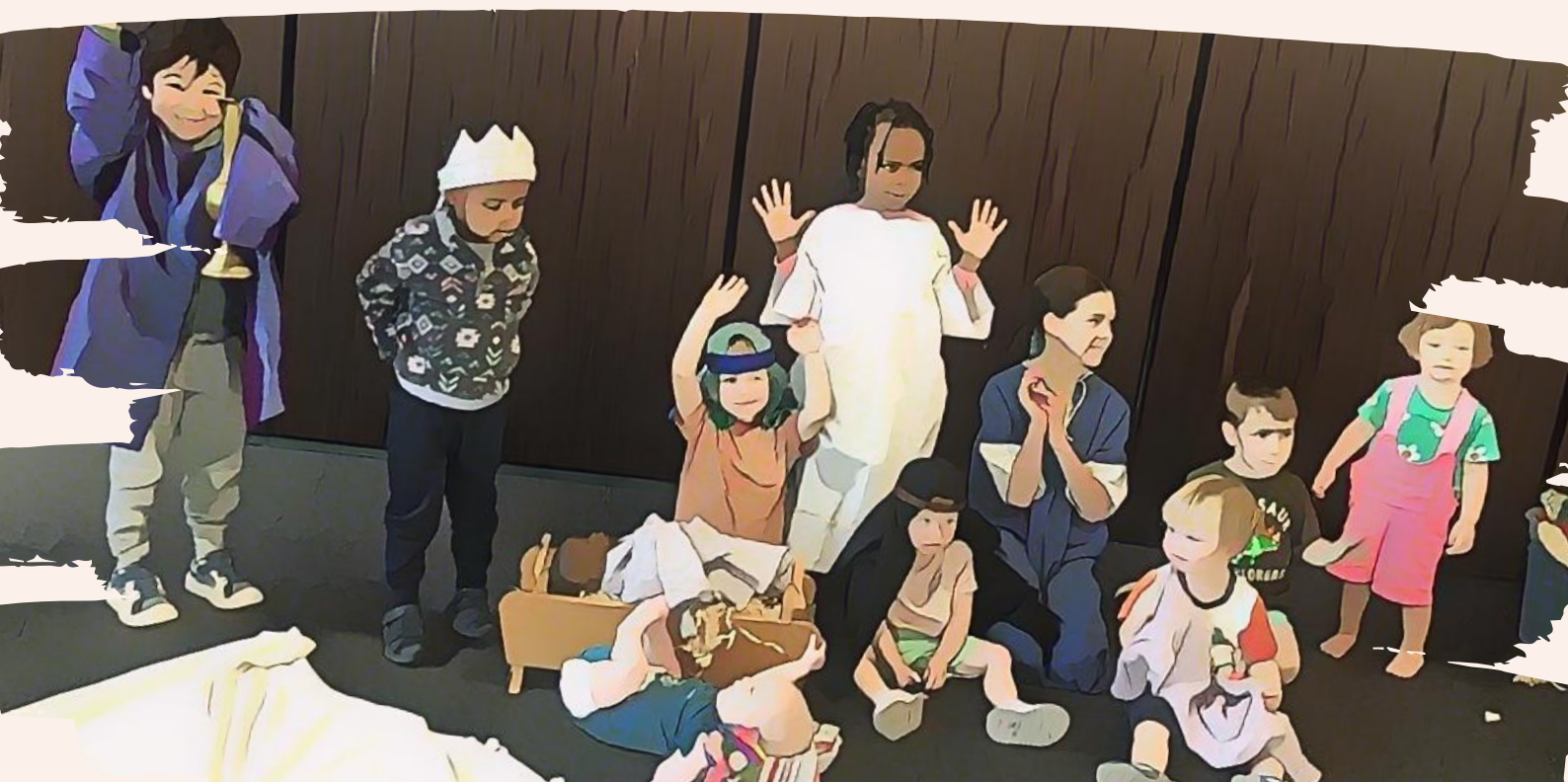
BY MADDY

maddy
 On Wednesday at school at lunch it was a Kelly sports. I have it with Amy, Amara, Chloe and Ebeanor. Kelly sports is very fun! On Thursday after school it is toms crew I go with Lucy Amy and my dad and more people. Toms crew is very fun!



Play Group







U



2025 marks a new chapter for St Tom's youth as Tracy Chen steps into the role of Youth Minister. Since joining the youth team in August 2024, Tracy's generosity and caring nature have helped her settle into the group seamlessly. Her passion for helping youth develop a solid foundation of faith has fitted well with this Christ-centered ministry. You may have seen her actively engaging with both the youth and young adults, and we're confident she will bring fresh energy and inspirations to the team. Plus she is getting better in games.

We're excited to see how God will work through Tracy in shaping the future of St Tom's youth. To live, grow, serve and proclaim in Christ.





We will begin the new year by dedicating time to pray for the youth and young adults of St Tom's. Join us in Tracy's office every Sunday at 9:30 am, starting from the first week of 2025. Everyone is invited.

**Every Sunday
9:30am**

@ Tracy's office

**Prayers for Sttoms
Youth + Young Adults**





Young adults end of year outing

The Young Adults Fellowship, which began in July 2024 for all the young adults of St Tom's, recently concluded the year with an exciting adventure filled with heights and challenges! Despite the busy Christmas season and with some members traveling, we were thrilled to have nine young people joined us.

Not only did we strengthen our connections, but we also achieved something incredible together. A huge well done to everyone who faced their fears and gave it their all—you were amazing! Flying across those tall trees was no small feat, and that 15-meter jump brought us closer as a group.



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At our last meeting in November, the group decided to start meeting weekly in the coming year. We'll be diving deeper into God's word, following St Tom's sermon series. If you're 18-25 years old and looking for a community where you can grow in faith and friendship, we'd love for you to join us next year. Stay tuned for more details, and we hope to see you there! Let's live and grow together in Christ.



Young Adults' Fellowship at St Tom's
every Sunday
5 ~ 7 PM

Contact Tracy tracyc@sttoms.org

Coming Up

Date	Time	Service
29 December	8:15AM 10 AM 11:45 AM	English (W1) Mandarin (W1) Cantonese (W1)
Note NO 8:15 in January		
5 January	10 AM 10 AM 11:45 AM	English (W2) Mandarin (W1) Cantonese (W1)
12 January	10 AM 10 AM 11:45 AM	English (W2) Mandarin (W1) Cantonese (W1)
19 January	10 AM 10 AM 11:45 AM	English (W2) Mandarin (W1) Cantonese (W1)
26 January	10 AM	Combined service (W2)
2 February	8:15 AM 10 AM 10 AM 11:45 AM	English (W1) English (W2) Mandarin (W1) Cantonese (W1)
All services and programs back to normal		

St Tom's prayer meeting

First Thursday
of the month
(whole church)

+

Sunday 9:30am
(for youth & young adults)



Chinese New Year Parish Lunch 02/02/2025

+

Farewell Ros and Mark



Discipleship

With Rod Morris



Starting 9 February
Every Sunday 5PM - 7PM



CLAY CAMP 2025 10-13 JULY

contact Tracy for more information



Chinese Intro God
信仰探索

共進晚餐聊信仰

聖多馬堂 44 Station St Burwood 短信報名 0481238631

ST TOM'S RETREAT

2025
5-7 September

LIVING + GROWING + SERVING + PROCLAIMING

IN CHRIST

Sanctuary Retreat - 27th December 2024 - 1st January 2025

'Sanctuary Family Retreat kicks off on the 27th December until the 1st January. 107 people from 10 different cultural backgrounds will be joining together for a week of rich community. Our vision is to create a safe space where everyone is welcomed, feels safe, develops connections and has a sense of hope for the future. We have families from Palestine, Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Yemen and Vietnam to name a few. All have varying levels of English proficiency and are carrying differing amounts of trauma. We'd love your prayers.

Please pray:

- That people would feel comfortable in a new space
- For safety, especially around the beach and water
- That everyone in attendance would be super gracious and understanding of one another.
- Pray that our team would be full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.
- Pray that our team would not grow weary of lavishing this love and generosity on all who attend.

Send Naomi a text on 0410981832, if you'd like to be added to a list of people who will receive prayer updates throughout Retreat and would be willing to pray for us!!'

Our team from last year...lots of new additions to the team this year.





CMS

WHEREVER

SUTS YOUTH CAMP
PHILLIP ISLAND ADVENTURE RESORT
17-21 JAN 2025



our mission partners





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.



LIVING + GROWING + SERVING + PROCLAIMING IN CHRIST

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