



St Thomas'
BURWOOD

JUNE 2025

NEWSLETTER

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Caring for One Another at St Thomas'

At St Thomas', we aim to be a church growing in love—love that's seen in acts of care and compassion. Pastoral care is not just the role of staff; it's the shared responsibility of the whole church community, as we seek to reflect God's love in practical ways.

Scripture calls us to care for one another:

"Bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2)

"Encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

What is Pastoral Care?

Our Pastoral Care Plan centres on Care and Connection—offering spiritual, practical, and social support for people facing challenges, questions, or change.

- Pastoral Care: provided by trained individuals or staff (e.g. visits, prayer, support in grief or crisis).
- Connection: everyday care offered by fellow members through small groups, meals, practical help, and prayer.

Small Groups are a vital part of this plan, as those who share life together are often best placed to support one another. However, not all needs can be met within groups—which is why our Care and Connection Coordinators are available to step in when needed.

We also recognise that everyone has different capacities and resources. Our goal is to provide fair and realistic care that's sustainable and reflects our values.

Need Pastoral Care or Want to Help Someone Else?

If you—or someone you know—needs support, please contact the appropriate coordinator below:

Area of Care	Coordinator(s)	Contact Details
Small Groups	Paula Adams & Susan Carrick	smallgroups@sttoms.org
Meals	Janelle Rees	meals@sttoms.org 0411 099 887
Handy Help	Peter Crandle	handyhelp@sttoms.org
Pastoral Care – Visiting	Annette Ward	pastoralcare@sttoms.org 0411 624 573
Prayer Circle	John Carrick	prayer@sttoms.org 0412 438 021
Women's Mentoring	Rachel Hayman	rachelgh@sttoms.org 0413 158 010

"Let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." – Galatians 6:10

UPDATE PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Council 90-day update – By Brenton Ward

Our church vision is to be “a thriving and growing church, joyfully living together under Christ as a cross-cultural, intergenerational family”.

As we progress toward this vision, Parish Council is pleased to provide an update on our 90-day goals, this being our second cycle of 90-day goals since our re-vision workshop held in late 2024.

Our 90 day goals are:

To communicate how we provide and receive pastoral care: The pastoral care coordinators met and reviewed pastoral care at St. Tom’s from perspectives including community life, access to pastoral care, the pastoral care plan and challenges and priorities.

A key outcome of this meeting was that photos, names and contact details of the pastoral care coordinators should be displayed on the wall of the lounge as well as overhead slides. The picture frame is about to be hung near the morning tea servery!

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UPDATE PARISH COUNCIL



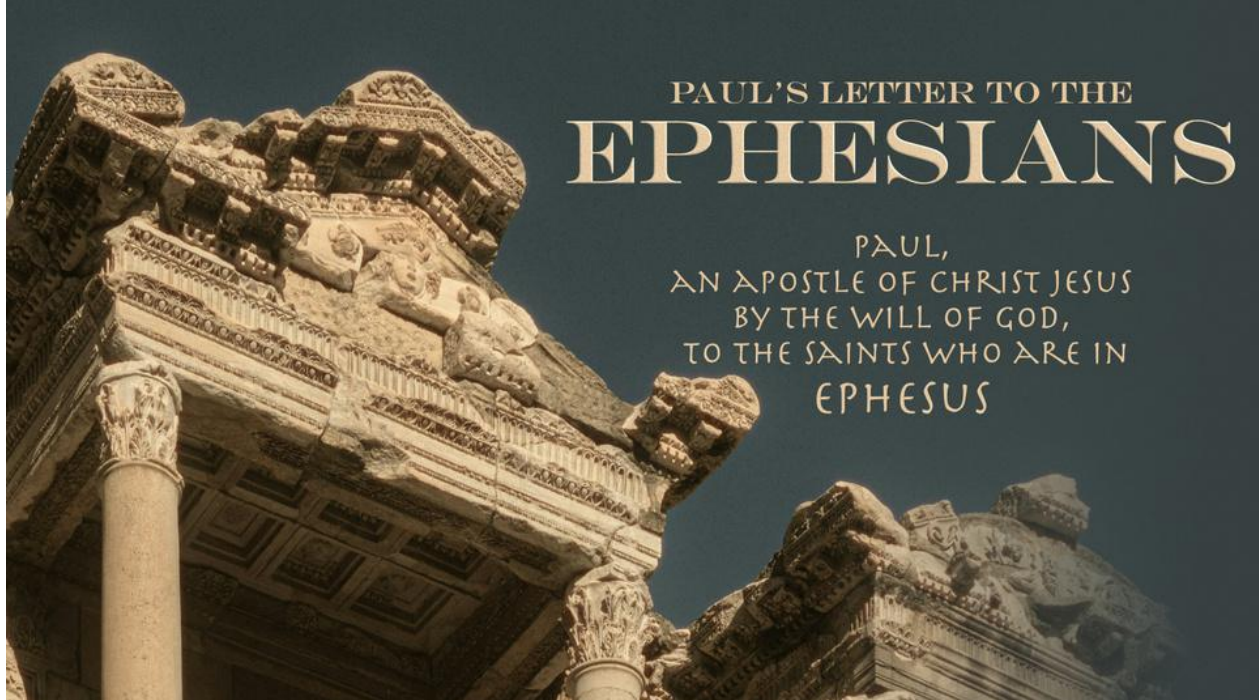
To promote small group membership to the church community: Our service leaders, particularly those who serve on Parish Council, have shared testimonies on the positive impact that small group membership has on their lives including encouragement, spiritual and personal growth, friendship and community. We encourage all members of St. Tom's to be part of a small group. Susie Carrick and Paula Adams are our small group coordinators, their contact details are located in the lounge.

Hold a community event: The "Who's Coming to Lunch" event has been scheduled for Sunday 15th June following the 10am service. We are delighted this will be a whole of church event with both Chinese speaking services meeting at 10am to join in lunch. This is an opportunity to develop closer connections and friendships with members of our Church. Many thanks to Fiona Dowling and her small group for facilitating.

Rejuvenation of Welcome Ministry: Providing a warm welcome to newcomers is a characteristic of a healthy and growing church! Parish Council has identified rejuvenation of our welcome ministry as a priority and has invested in new vertical banners to highlight the entrance to each worship space and is holding a welcomer's training session on Thursday 26th June to cover responsibilities and new initiatives. Thankyou to John and Cathy Altmann's small group for recently hosting a newcomer's lunch. We are investigating wayfinding signage in the car park and courtyard to guide people to the church entrance.

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PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

PAUL,
AN APOSTLE OF CHRIST JESUS
BY THE WILL OF GOD,
TO THE SAINTS WHO ARE IN
EPHESUS

In my first year at St Tom's, way back in 2016, I attended *Equipping Priests In Charge*: a two-year course facilitated by Sandy Jones on behalf of Melbourne Diocese. In one of my first sessions, Steve Webster (former Vicar of St Michael's North Carlton) presented on starting well in a new parish. Steve was a veteran Vicar; I greatly respected his insights and practical advice. One piece of Steve's advice that I acted on was to do a series on Paul's letter to the Ephesians. The reason Steve gave was simple - Ephesians provides us with a vision of what the Church is and in this sense it explains who we are, as a church. That was nine years ago.



There are many other books of the Bible we have not had a series on, so a fair question would be, Why are we doing Ephesians again?

The short answer is that it was requested by last year's Parish Council. Behind that request was a similar rationale that Steve Webster gave. In the latter months of 2024, after our revision day, the Parish Council perceive that St Tom's needed to recall what the Scriptures say about the church to help us reconnect with the grand vision given to us. A series on Ephesians was suggested as a response to this need.

As with all Scripture, we read it and re-read it. This is what it means to meditate on Scripture. God's word is sustenance for our spiritual life as a community. We will never stop learning from the Bible and growing in Christ.

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:1-4 NRSV

Let's pray that we grow a deep understanding of who we are as a community, called by God the Father in Christ, to be His gathered people of love and faith. Amen!

Peace be to the whole community,
and love with faith,
from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:23-24 NRSV



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

what did St Tom's think

With my group, it's been a wonderful time to study the Gospels together.

**Focusing on Christ gives us a real example for how to live each day,
as we all want to be more like Jesus.**

In Luke's Gospel, what stands out to me is Jesus' humanity. His love for sinners and those on the margins, like tax collectors and fishermen, regardless of their status or background.

**This reminds me that if I want to follow Jesus,
I have no right to judge or discriminate, because He never did.**

I was surprised by how strongly Luke highlights Jesus' care for women and the poor.

We also noticed how much Luke talks about wealth, especially in stories like Zacchaeus and the widow's coins.

The woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment and how she was healed by a miracle, not by medicine.

I really appreciate reading the whole Gospel from start to finish, not skipping over the tricky bits, because it challenges us to think deeply and honestly.

Studying the Gospels this way has helped me grow in faith and see Jesus' example more clearly in my own life.

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Baptism

18 MAY 2025



Getting baptised shows
courage, commitment, and
desire to grow closer to God.

It's a joyful celebration of new
beginnings and a public way to
share your love for Jesus with
your church family.

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I know about God because my family has always gone to church and read the Bible to me. Through this, I have learned about His kindness and mercy. I have experienced God in my life, and I want to have a friendship with Him because I want to learn more about Him and become closer to Him.

I want to be baptized because it is something I have always wanted to do. I believe it will help me on my journey of faith and in becoming a better person. I want the church to know that I desire to be closer to God by getting baptized, and I ask that you pray for me as I grow older and stronger in my faith.

I am especially grateful to the people at St Thomas who have helped me learn about God at Sunday Club and youth group. Thank you for supporting me on my faith journey.

Jarrah

I have Sri Lankan heritage but was born in Melbourne, and have attended various churches in the Eastern suburbs. I've been part of St Tom's since 2021, following the COVID lockdowns. We were introduced to this church through my in-laws after they invited our son along to Messy Church.

I'm currently volunteering in one of the Music Bands, as a Tim Toms helper and a Morning Tea helper. I joined a band first, which would have been a few years ago.



VOLUNTEERS SPOTLIGHT

My most rewarding experience is serving in the Music ministry. I've always loved to worship God through music, but I found it easier to do in private or anonymously in a large church where I couldn't be seen. While I still feel a bit nervous when leading music, it's been great to become more comfortable in that space, especially when others share that it has helped them to connect with God.

The church is often described as a family, and the same way that each family member has a unique place and contribution to make within a family, each church member has unique gifts that can be used to contribute within church life. Having been part of many different churches over the years, I've found that I feel more connected to the church community when I'm serving in some capacity.

If you're thinking about volunteering but haven't taken the step yet, give it a go! You can usually start out as a helper, which is a great way to try it out and see if it's for you. Volunteering is a fantastic way to meet new people, learn new skills, and make a real difference—you might be surprised by how rewarding and enjoyable it can be!





UPDATE ENGLISH CLASS



Hi everyone!

I'm Zi Bin, and I've recently joined St Tom's as the English Classes Coordinator. I'm originally from Singapore and recently graduated from Deakin University with a degree in Nutrition Science.

During university, I served as the International Student Representative in the Deakin Christian Union, where I had the joy of welcoming international students and sharing the gospel with them. In this new role, I'm excited to continue supporting people from all backgrounds. I hope to help them grow in confidence with English and also prayerfully point them to the love and hope found in Jesus. I'm looking forward to meeting you all!



THE LAST SUPPER





What is messy church?

Messy Church is a fun, creative, and family-friendly way of doing church that welcomes people of all ages, especially families with children. It usually happens once a term and includes hands-on activities, crafts, games, a short celebration or story time, and a shared meal. The aim is to explore faith in a relaxed, informal setting where everyone can feel at home, make new friends, and learn about God together. Messy Church is all about community, creativity, and hospitality—no matter how “messy” life gets!

St Tom's could come together to serve the Messy Church and baptism ministries more effectively by encouraging members to get involved in practical ways—whether that's helping with set-up, preparing food, leading activities, or simply offering a warm welcome to families and newcomers. Building strong teams for these ministries means sharing ideas, supporting each other, and praying together for the people who attend. By fostering a spirit of hospitality and teamwork, St Tom's can create a welcoming environment where everyone feels valued and included.

ST TOM'S YOUTH

ISAIAH 64:8



Wow ! what a day! Our St Tom's Youth car wash was super tiring but honestly, so much fun. We got soaked, laughed a ton, and worked together to scrub every car that rolled in.

It felt awesome serving our community and raising support for our camp at the same time.



Thanks to everyone who bought a ticket and let us wash your car (no questions asked)! We loved every minute—even if our arms are still sore. Can't wait to do it again!

Dunk the Leaders results

Huge thanks to St Tom's
for supporting our camp!

St Tom's had fun,
especially
dunking John,
Tracy, and Shine.

Shine	\$602.10
John	\$398.15
Tracy	\$344.40
Joshua	\$301.70
Lars	\$22.70
Hannah	\$10.50



TRIVIA & LUNCH

St Thomas'
BURWOOD

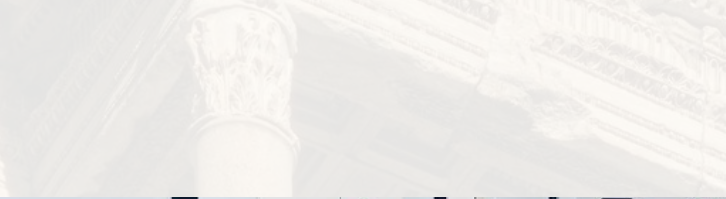
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some of us cook,
some of us serve,
some of us plan,
some of us clean,
some of us get dunked

we all work together
in Youth Ministry
as
one body in Christ

**DIFFERENT PARTS,
SAME SPIRIT,
ONE LORD**



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CHURCH RETREAT

SEPT 05 — 07

CYC FOREST EDGE
405 MCKENZIE RD
NEERIM EAST VIC

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Guess Who's Coming to Lunch??

Sunday 15th June

Join your mystery host for a simple lunch following the morning services.

Be a host! Or be a guest.

Please **let Fiona Dowling know** if you can make it at fmdowl@bigpond.net.au or sign up after church on Sundays.



Staff Contact Details

John Carrick	Lead Minister	johnc@sttoms.org	0412 438 021
	MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN		
Joey Chan	Chinese Congregations Minister	joeyc@sttoms.org	0481 238 631
	MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN		
Rachel Gijbbers Hayman	Generation Minister	rachelgh@sttoms.org	0413 158 010
	MON, TUE, THU, SUN		
Karen Morris	Evangelistic Ministries Coordinator	karenm@sttoms.org	0417 765 210
	MON, TUE		
Tracy Chen	Youth Minister	tracyc@sttoms.org	0430 656 456
	MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SUN		
Hannah Parkin	Admin Assistant	admin@sttoms.org	9808 3250 0481 830 261
	MON, TUE, THU		



[FEEDBACK](#)



[VOLUNTEER](#)



[GIVE](#)



[ST TOM'S HOPE](#)

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**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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