

Webinar on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict on Monday night. Bernie Power from Melbourne School of Theology will discuss how we as Christians can respond to this complex and divisive issue. Register [online via this link](#)

Charity Giving Tree Christmas Gifts for families in need: unwrapped gifts for children under 12 and \$30 gift cards for teens, are sought for distribution well before Christmas - please place in the collection basket in church by mid-Nov. Brenda Rutherford will coordinate this on behalf of St Stephen's. Sue is also happy to collect donations. Thank you to those who have already made donations.

Winter Bible Studies God is at work in the world; and the Bible tells the story of this a 'drama' in seven acts: *Creation - Rebellion - Old Testament Promise - Cross of Christ - New Testament Mission - Judgement - New Creation* Meet at St Stephen's church for one hour on Tuesdays at 10am, or repeated at 7pm:
Remaining date in October - 31st

St Stephen's Women's Coffee Mornings 10am to 11.30am Sat 18 Nov. Stonehouse Café in Warrandyte. Partners and children are welcome. Sue Curlis will be in contact closer to the next date.

Are you interested in healing? A conference; "[Divine Healing in the 21st Century](#)", will take place from 16th to 18th November 2023 at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Caulfield North. Cost \$150. Any interest? - Please see Vicar

Dates for your diary

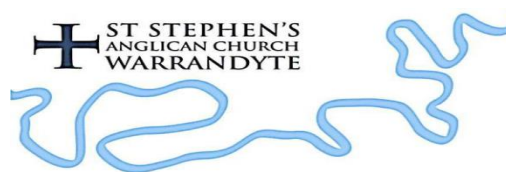
- Sun 26th Nov - parish Annual General Meeting, after worship, approx. 11am
. Now is the time to ask friends to consider nominating for Parish Council
. Reports gladly received: Churchwardens, Treasurer, Market Stall, Community Connect, etc

Resources for ministry

Giving can be made directly to our Bendigo Bank Warrandyte account
BSB: 633-000 Acct Number: 140334277.

Church Contact Details

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*A welcoming Christ-centred community
seeking and working together
through the power of the Holy Spirit
to worship God, share His good news
and grow as disciples of Jesus*

Sunday 29th October 2023

Birrarung is the aboriginal name of the River Yarra and this week its power has been on display, carrying away the rainfall that has recently fallen on its catchment. Its power must be respected, as it mostly brings life - but sometimes mortal danger. We're very sorry about the drowning this week of a local man and offer condolences to family.

Abundant water is a helpful image in the bible. At first, the chosen people of God were rescued out of Egypt through water, which aided the Israelites but thwarted the Egyptians. As the tribes then wandered in the wilderness, scarcity of water and the hardness of life reflected their immature hearts. Later, when all the first generation of faithlessness had passed, from the edge of the dry and desert wilderness, Joshua led them across the Jordan to the Promised Land.

John the Baptist opened a path to the future, offering a baptism of repentance to anyone who recognised the poor state of their relationship with God. To indicate the rightness of this trajectory, Jesus accepted John's baptism in the Jordan and passed over to a new phase of relationship with his Heavenly Father. Onlookers heard the confirming words 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' (Luke3:22)

At the end of our Bible (Rev 22) there is an image of how God's goodness flows out to nurture the wellbeing of his people - a river of the water of life, clear as crystal. As Alethea is baptised in the flowing river on Sunday, we pray that water brings her abundant life.

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land - from Gilead to Dan, all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar.

Then the Lord said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it."

And so Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. Moses was buried in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the Spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So, the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.

Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Acts 3:1-26

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer - at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.

Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So, the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of

Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

"Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus.

"Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.' (*Deuteronomy 18:15-19*)

"Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' (*Genesis 22:18 and 26:4*) When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."