

We acknowledge those who were here before us, the first inhabitants of this place. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

St Paul's Stafford Uniting Church

(Webster Road)
PO Box 5540
Rode Shopping Centre
Stafford Heights 4053

Minister

Rev. Dr Debra Tedman
phone 0468 406 020
email: dktedman@gmail.com
(Debra's day off is Friday.
Please respect this except in an emergency).

Office phone 3356 9465

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:30 am - 2:30 pm
(these hours are flexible during the coronavirus crisis)
e-mail address:
admin@stpaulsstafford.org.au

Welcome!

A very warm welcome is extended to all visitors to our website, including those following our worship services on Zoom

Pastoral Care Aims

We really want to show our Christian love and care for all our church family. You can help!

If you know of anyone who is sick or in need, please contact their Elder or Pastoral Carer

Our Offering Commitment

Offerings year to date:

\$118,976.45 ☺

Budget to 30 November:

\$117,700.00

A/c Name: UCA St Paul's Stafford.

BSB 014-010

Account No. 191608544

Check out our "St Paul's at Stafford" website at <https://stpaulsstafford.org.au/>



Newsletter

Sunday 15 November 2020

8:15 am – Kids' time on Zoom

9:00 am – Rev. Dr Debra Tedman, "Agent of Change"

Scripture readings: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; **2 Peter 1:2-10; Matthew 25:14-30**

What's on this week:

Tuesday 17

7:00 pm – Ailsa's Home Group by Zoom

7:30 pm – Cuppa & Supper by Zoom

Thursday 19

7:30 pm – TM/JR Bible Study by Zoom

Friday 20

9:30 am – Beth's Home Group by Zoom

Sunday 22 November 2020

9:00 am – Rev. John Cox.

Scripture readings: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; **Matthew 25:31-46**

What's on next week:

Tuesday 24

7:00 pm – Ailsa's Home Group by Zoom

Friday 27

9:30 am – MOPS (at the church)

Agent of Change

What we choose to do with our talents, our gifts from God, is the theme of Jesus' parable this week (Mt. 25. 14-30). A healthy, positive self- image empowers us to use our talents in service of God during our lives. Therefore, I have been concerned over the years that some people do not trust the Lord and his transforming love and forgiveness, so that they can see themselves as Jesus sees them. In an article "Agent of Change" (McGee, 1998), we are encouraged to renew our hearts and minds through the power of the Holy Spirit when faced with those changes in life that produce worry and uncertainty. We then replace thought patterns that tell us that our worth is based on performance and others' opinions, with thoughts that focus on the truth of God's unconditional love for us, thereby developing a positive self- image.

Here are some suggestions to help you develop and maintain a positive self-image.

1. Realise that your talents are a gift, not something you have manufactured yourself.
2. When God gives you light, walk in it.
3. Be quick to repent.
4. Stop saying negative things about yourself. God loves you and it's wrong to hate what God loves. He has great plans for you, so you're in conflict with God when you speak negatively concerning your future.
5. Never be afraid to admit that you have made a mistake and don't always assume that when things go wrong, it must be your fault.
6. Don't meditate excessively on what you've done, right or wrong, both of these activities keep your mind on you! Centre your thoughts on Christ. Listen, you will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace, whose mind (both its inclination and its character) is stayed on you (Isa. 26:3).
7. Take good care of yourself physically. Make the best of what God gave you to work with, but don't be obsessed with your appearance.
8. Never stop learning, but don't allow your education to become a point of pride. God doesn't use you because of what's in your head. God uses you because of what's in your heart.
9. Hate your sin, but never hate yourself.

(Developed from dbabout@ziggycom.net)

As I wrote at Easter, on my study visit to St George's College, Jerusalem, in 2014, I was woken by an air raid siren, as missiles from the Gaza strip were targeting Jerusalem. I was quite frightened, so the next day I walked to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City of Jerusalem (as shown in photograph), believed to be the site of Jesus's empty tomb, to spend time in prayer and reflection. This experience further developed my appreciation of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Christ has certainly been an agent of change in my life, as I draw on him for direction, encouragement and strength. At this time of the year, with the challenges we are facing, I ask you to remember that Christ is always there for you.

Yours in Christ,
Debra



Monday Morning Prayer

Creator God, Inspire us to be your body working together with you to share your infinite love, your boundless grace and your abundant life for all. (Rev. Andrew Gunton)

New Duty Roster!!

The new roster covers Sundays until 3 January 2021. **We especially need welcomers and ushers for Face to Face worship from 29 November.** Please contact Mavis in the office by phone or email if you can help.

Can't do your roster after all?

If, for one reason or another, you find you are unable to fulfil your promised spot on the roster, it would be much appreciated if you could personally ask someone else to take your place.

Have you moved recently?

If so, please give your new address and contact details to Mavis in the office, by email or phone.

It is essential that we have everyone's correct contact details should a COVID event occur.



NAIDOC week was rescheduled from 8–15 November with the theme "all was, always will be".

Sharing stories of First Peoples' achievements and learning about the covenant relationship between the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Congress (UAICC) and the Uniting Church are great ways to celebrate. The Synod office has produced a video with Covenant Action Plan Project Officers Natalie Lewis and Erin Mawhinney as they reflect together on their journey of covenanting. [Watch the video at https://vimeo.com/477378482](https://vimeo.com/477378482)

Message from the Moderator

Rev Andrew Gunton shares some **key decisions** from the recent 35th Synod in Session. Watch Andrew's short message at <https://vimeo.com/477378213>

Are you interested in studying theology?

Come to Trinity College Qld's open evening, Thursday 19 Nov. from 7pm–8.30pm. Meet with current students, learn about fee-help and listen to a sample mini-lecture. Find out about different pathways you can take (e.g. towards church ministry, secular marketplace, and chaplaincy). To attend either onsite or via Zoom, RSVP to <https://www.trinity.qld.edu.au/event/open-evening-3/>

Prayers for:

Our Church Family	Prayer Requests	Prayers for Local Community	Prayers for the Wider Church
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Stella E◦ Di D◦ Jean McF◦ Elizabeth B◦ Edris S◦ Daphne J	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Kids Hope Children◦ Timothy and his parents◦ Ross & Kathryn◦ Stuart McC◦ Bruce P	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ UCA Qld Synod◦ All ministry agents◦ All in the medical profession◦ Stafford Heights State School◦ Those who are unemployed◦ Communities/people who are struggling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ John C◦ Colleen G◦ Alison C◦ Mark C◦ Pam B◦ Andrew G◦ Jillian R



Happy Birthday to Sophie R (TODAY), Marie R (16 Nov), Pam W (17 Nov), Jude G (19 Nov), Robert P (20 Nov) and Catherine R (21 Nov). Special greetings to Bev Ro who celebrates a special birthday on 20 November.

Debra's diary

Debra will be involved in a wedding from 16 to 22 November. Please contact your pastoral carer if you have needs or concerns during that time.

ORCA Christmas Bags – order deadline extended until 16 November

See previous newsletters for more details. Individual products, or bags priced from \$15 to \$25 are available, and orders will close on Monday 16 November. Please note: Kinetic sand has been replaced by Slime in the family bags! Email to kmachado@wmg.org.au or call Caryn Adamson on 0447 578 739. Delivery dates remain unchanged.

Face-to-face Worship

As our COVID Warden, Denise, spoke about last Sunday, St Paul's Church Council will be working towards returning to face-to-face (F2F) worship on **Sunday 29 November**.

There is a considerable amount of planning and documentation that must be completed before we can return. To facilitate F2F worship we will also need to have volunteers to thoroughly clean the church and hall each time it is accessed. We will also need welcomers and ushers to manage the movement of people each Sunday.

Every volunteer will need to complete a Vulnerable Person Risk Assessment Form and submit it to Debra. Any medical information shared will only be accessed by Debra and not passed on to anyone else.

If you are able to contribute to returning to F2F worship, please contact Mavis in the office (by phone or email) or our COVID Warden, Denise, phone 3148 9449 or 0402 910 640; email denisedkelly14@gmail.com

More information will be shared as it becomes available, via the Newsletter and the website. Please also refer to Denise's previous notes and Debra's recent letter.



Choose your own ADVENTURE

Looking for ideas for Advent that can involve different ages? Choose your own ADVENTure – a compiled list of resources that might be a nice addition to what you may already be doing as a family or a church. For more information contact Jill intergen@mrpres.org.au or check it out on the Presbytery website: www.moretonriverspresbytery.org.au/resources/choose-your-own-adventure/

The best gifts this Christmas

Everything in Common gifts are back and they're all yours to share with your loved ones. Each gift represents a life-changing project helping people to break the cycle of poverty and step towards a life of dignity.

Select from these favourite gifts:

\$10 chickens;

\$15 school supplies;

\$50 pigs and more!

Check out the full catalogue of gifts <https://everythingincommon.com.au/> and the promotional video at <https://vimeo.com/463212053> to support UnitingWorld in creating a world free from poverty and injustice..