

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 for 2020:

\$134,698.62 😊

Offerings for 3 Jan 2021:

\$2,862.31

2021 Budget TBA

**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 10 January 2021 - Baptism of the Lord

9:00 am – Rev. Dr Debra Tedman.

Scripture readings: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Sunday 17 January 2021

9:00 am – Rev. Dr Debra Tedman.

Scripture readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10,11-20; Psalm 139:1-6,13-18;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Baptism

I sometimes think back to my years of Formation for ordained ministry, where I was asked to participate in a discussion of whether baptism should be of adults and children or only of adults. Those who believed that baptism should be only for adults argued that the person being baptised should be old enough to make their own profession of faith. My belief is discussed below.

Where there is life, there is the Spirit of God, and there is no limit to what the Spirit of God can do. In the New Testament, baptism is linked with receipt of the Holy Spirit: "... and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) and this gift is for all members of the households, including children (Acts 16:15, 31-34, 18:18, Corinthians 1:16)".¹

The Spirit is present from the moment of conception. There is nothing that we can do to earn the free gift of baptism from Christ and children are an integral part of the Kingdom of God, so baptism cannot be refused for children on the basis of their age. The faith commitment cannot be the central part of the service. Since faith develops in the power of the Holy Spirit, the faith which justifies and saves is the divine reality, the gift and work of the Holy Spirit, which can be revealed to infants (Luke 10:21).² Therefore, infant baptism should be practised independently of whether the person is old enough to make their own profession of faith.



The Uniting Church celebrates that it is God's grace in Christ that has brought the infant to the Church to be baptised. After this, there is the expectation that the child will be nurtured in faith as part of the journey throughout the whole of life by the community that has accepted this responsibility as part of the baptism. The Uniting Church baptises infants "as the visible act that declares that God loves and accepts them as sons and daughters in his family. Through this act, Jesus Christ affirms their place within his church".³ The life into which infants are baptised means that they are welcomed into a large family which offers its love and care, sharing the responsibility for teaching, witnessing and serving in a way that enables the child to grow to maturity in Christ.⁴

God's grace goes ahead of us and it is Jesus Christ who is present when we are baptised and who does the work. As Baptism has a decisive effect, independent of humans, and it is God who does the work in the sacrament, baptism should not be denied to infants.⁵ As the minister says during a baptism "... For you Jesus Christ has come, has lived, has suffered, for you he endured the agony of Gethsemane and the darkness of Calvary; for you he uttered the cry, 'It is accomplished!', ... for you he triumphed over death, for you the praise at God's right hand;" "even before you were born".⁶

Therefore, I have a very strong belief in the practice of infant baptism.

¹ Presbytery of South Moreton, *Sacraments for Lay Presiders – Baptism Workshop notes* (2019a), 5.

² Geoffrey W Bromiley, *Children of Promise: The Case for Baptising Infants* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1979), 73.

³ Keith D. Pearson, *Baptism and our Children* (Collingwood, Australia: Uniting Church Press, 1982), 5.

⁴ Presbytery of South Moreton, *Sacraments for Lay Presiders – Baptism Workshop notes* (2019a), 1.

⁵ George R. Beasley-Murray, *Baptism in the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1962), 102.

⁶ National Working Group on Worship and Doctrine, *Baptism* (Sydney: Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia, 2005), 20.

Yours in Christ,
Debra



Monday Morning Prayer

God of new birth, we give thanks for this new year, and the hope that it brings with it. Amen

(Moderator Rev. Andrew Gunton)

New Duty Roster!!

The new roster runs until 28 March 2021, and it would be appreciated if you could contact Mavis a.s.a.p. by office phone or email with the dates you can help.

Musicians and singers, please note that you have now been included on this roster.

Annual Reports

To help prepare for our AGM on 21 March, could all leaders of groups (including home groups) please write an account (even if it's brief) of your activities/adventures in 2020. What a year it was! Stories can be emailed to Mavis at the office or handed to Robyn Riley at church. Photos are most welcome!

The Right Rime

As a teacher, I have learned that there is a "teachable moment," that sacred, unknown moment when the listener becomes a learner and the eyes light up. The heartbeat quickens, and it is the right time.

The older you get, the more you see how often you have done something right, but at the wrong time. You pushed your children too soon, or you missed a golden opportunity, or you jumped forward when you should have stood still. It would be great wisdom to always know the right time.

But Ecclesiastes says that it is greater wisdom to accept our finite, creaturely status.

Too much is outside our ability to control. The right time is in God's hands, not ours.

Christmas was such a time. Mary and Joseph didn't know it as they went about paying taxes, visiting relatives, getting engaged, having a baby. But it was the right time; God knew.

You and I are not gods unto ourselves. We cannot know the right time. Yet, here is the good news: Wherever life takes you in the coming year, the seasons of your life are held in God's hand and by God's grace. All shall be well.

William H. Willman,
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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◦ Fletcher family◦ Corrine R	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Kids Hope Children◦ Timothy and his parents◦ Ross & Kathryn◦ Stuart McC◦ Bruce P◦ Janine F	<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 Jeanne J (14 January)
and Bev McC (15 January)

Sandra Perry update

Please keep the program in your prayers, that it can continue and prisoners will continue to be blessed. Last year we sent \$225 to support Sandra's work in Cambodia.

Face to Face Worship

Please click on the new link to UCare below and enter your details to book a seat. **Please note that you will need to book on an updated link, which will change every week.** We have a limited number of seats available to maintain distancing, however you will now be able to sit in social groupings as well as household groupings. For example, if you come to church in a car with someone outside your household, or come with grandchildren who live elsewhere, you can now sit together.

Here is the link for Worship 10 January 2021, 9 am

<https://ucaqld.ucareapp.com/events/343/booknow>

Please make a booking for each person attending. When your booking has been successful you will receive a message saying you have booked a "ticket" You do not need to print the ticket or show a ticket at the door to come to worship.

Need help? Please ring me if you are having difficulty or have any questions.

What to bring:

Your Bible, bottle of water, cushion if needed, patience and good humour! A mask is a good idea if you feel concerned about distancing, although we can provide a disposable one at the door for you.



If you are unwell even with mild symptoms, have been in contact with a person with a suspected case of COVID 19 or travelled to a hotspot, you should stay at home and join us via Zoom.

Denise K – COVID Warden

07 3148 9449 – leave a message

0402 910 640 – sometimes the mobile doesn't allow a message; however, if I have a missed call, I will call you back

Denisedkelly14@gmail.com

Celebrate starting the school year in a special way on 24 January

You are invited to share in a special Back to School Service here at St Paul's on Sunday 24 January at 9 am.

1. Students are invited to wear their school uniform.
2. Each year our church pays to be affiliated with KidsHope Australia (around \$800) to continue the ministry at Stafford Heights State School. We have several mentors trained and attending weekly to mentor young people. At the back to school service there will be a retiring offering for people to support our Kids Hope affiliation. You can Direct Debit your offering using the church account and just mark it "Kids Hope" or there will be a basket at the exit of the church at the Back to School service for this special retiring offering.
3. Stationery collection – There will also be a **stationery collection** to support disadvantaged students in the local schools.