

10 September 2026

WHATS ON AT ST PAUL'S

24/7 Global Prayer Week

9am 7th to 5pm Saturday 12th Sept

<https://pray.247prayer.com/signup/5b3b11>

Saturday 12 September

Just Women Brunch 10.00am

Sunday 13 September

Prayer Breakfast 8.00am

Worship 9.30am

St Pauls Kids (during worship)

SPY & YA 11am

Monday 14 September

St Paul's Open Doors 10am -12noon

Tuesday 15 September

St Paul's Open Doors 10am -12noon

Light Lunch 11.45am – 12.45pm

Midweek Worship 1.00pm

Bible Study 2.30pm

Wednesday 16 September

CLC Play Group 10am -12pm

CLC Table Tennis 10.30am

Young Adults ESYA 7.30pm

Choir Rehearsal 7.30pm

Thursday 17 September

Women's Walking Group 9.30am

Friday 18 September

Card and Board Games 7.00pm

Sunday 20 September

Worship 9.30am

no CYF due to school holidays

Monday 21 September

St Paul's Open Doors 10am -12noon

Tuesday 22 September

St Paul's Open Doors 10am -12pm

CLC Play Group 10am -12pm

Light Dinner 5.45pm

Mission Team 7.30pm

Wednesday 23 September

St Paul's Open Doors 10am -12noon

CLC Table Tennis 10.30am

Sermon Discussion Group 7.00pm

Young Adults 7.30pm

Thursday 24 September

Women's Walking Group 9.30am

Friday 25 September

Public holiday – no Men's Group

SUNDAY EXTRA

UPDATE ON OFFERINGS AT ST PAUL'S

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."
(Hebrews 13:16)

Back in June at the Annual General Meeting I asked for your prayerful consideration of your giving. **I would like to thank you all for your prayers and consideration and the positive response.**

Based on the improved giving and assuming it continues, we have reduced our forecast year end offering shortfall to a little over \$20,000 significantly down from the \$50,000 projected at the AGM.

There are 18 weeks until the end of the year in which we might make up the shortfall completely - around \$1,100 per week or **about \$3.50 per household per week - less than the price of a cup of coffee.** This is achievable. Again I thank you all for your ongoing support.

The finance team, Church Council and ministry leaders are also working on the St Paul's budget for 2027 and Church Council is continuing the work to establish the Philanthropic Fund to help support our mission work with the remaining proceeds from the sale of Station Street.

We are also looking at how we adequately fund future asset replacement and repairs to avoid the need for special appeals such as the recent organ refurbishment where equipment breaks or wears out.

As a congregation we desire to be good stewards of the blessings we have received, so I ask for your thoughts, prayers and suggestions.

Jeff Poulton
St Paul's Treasurer

"Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."
(Proverbs 3: versus 9-10)

OFFERING TO END OF JULY

<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Deficit</u>	
\$255k	\$278	(23k)	91.7% YTD

Offering Budget target for end of year \$480k

Giving to St Pauls

Give via REG (registered electronic giving). LLL REG forms are available in the foyer.

Give via direct credit to St Paul's Westpac bank account

St Paul's Lutheran Church Box Hill

BSB 033 172 Acct 123 374

Or see the '**Giving**' tab on the St Paul's Box Hill website for giving via 'tithely'.

UPDATE ON 711 STATION ST



As you may know, our lease with Early Light, the new owners of 711 Station Street, expired in mid-March this year. Early Light has taken custody of the site, and have been preparing it for another potential tenant, who may be moving in soon.

This means that it is no longer possible for anyone from St Paul's to park at the church site.

Longer term plans for the site:

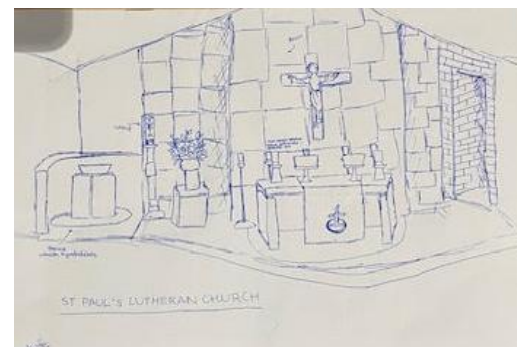
We are still in touch with Early Light, and they have told us that any plans for redevelopment of the site remain several years away. However, the Suburban Rail Loop Authority has recently indicated that they are looking to compulsorily acquire all of the properties on that side of Station Street, between Whitehorse Road and Box Hill Gardens. That would certainly change the outcome for the site. This is still subject to approval of the government, and possibly the outcome of the forthcoming state election, and the timing and outcome is far from certain. So there is no definite outcome at this stage, but we are watching with interest and share this update to keep members informed.

David Pietsch

STUDENTS AT ST PAUL'S

In recent weeks St Paul's has hosted three visits by college students from Luther College and then from Presbyterian Ladies College (PLC).

You can read more about the Luther College visit on the back page. The PLC visits were geared towards learning more about Martin Luther and 'what is a Lutheran'. One of the students shared this great representation of the church sanctuary with us.



MEN'S GROUP FUNDRAISER TRIVIA NIGHT DEFERRED.

Please note the Proposed Music Trivia night for Saturday 19th September has been deferred.

Thank you to John Hinz for the support he gives to Men's Group and in support of ALWS.

Due to the Public Holiday there will be no Men's Group in September.



ST PAUL'S FETE SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER

We are once again looking forward to and planning our St Paul's fete to be held on **Saturday 21 November from 10am to 2pm**. This year we will have the added attraction of our musicians entertaining us with a concert from 2pm, following their successful event earlier this year. **It would be great to have as many congregation members join us during the day and accordingly you are warmly invited.**

The key purpose of the fete and concert is to reach out into our local community and show, by reflecting God's love, that St Paul's is a supportive part of the community. We will therefore be inviting along our Box Hill South neighbours and we would encourage our congregation members to take the opportunity to invite families and friends.

Sign up sheets are available in the Community Space or contact Mission@stpaulsboxhill.org.au to find out more.

NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY 2026

"How is the Church looking?" "Is it changing?" "Are we growing?"

Well, just like the census we recently participated in for the Australian Bureau of Statistics, every four years the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) is conducted to look at all manner of questions concerning the Christian Church in Australia.

This year we will participate in the NCLS with a particular focus in our worship service on October 25 when we will ask your input.

Our church is taking part in the 2026 National Church Life Survey.

Why? Locally, this survey helps our church to listen to all voices, so we can gain valuable insights to shape the health and vitality of our church.

Nationally, our church will also add to a vital picture of church life across Australia, highlighting national trends and informing wider society.

The NCLS is the largest, longest running survey of local church life in the world.

Thousands of churches

7,000+ church leaders

200,000+ church attenders

20 + denominations

Surveys in many languages

The survey will help us to

1. Take time to listen to every voice: new & long-term, young & old
2. Invite attenders to reflect on their own wellbeing
3. Take stock of our church's health
4. Receive our own church results to help shape your ministry and mission into the future
5. Identify our strengths and use them to grow
6. Help church leaders reflect on leadership development and personal wellbeing
7. Add to the profile of our denomination
8. Help our denomination better understand the gifts and challenges of local churches
9. Compare with other churches
10. To be part of the national snapshot of the whole Australian Church.

Pastor Sue and I will introduce more about the NCLS in the coming weeks

Pastor Nev

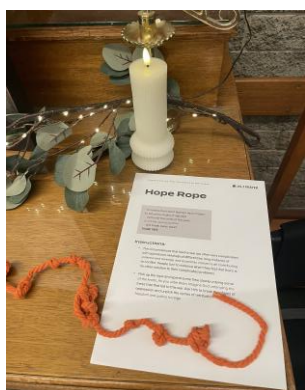


ST PAUL'S PRAYER ROOM by Cathy Beaton

As I write I am sitting on a comfy couch in our beautiful and peaceful Prayer Room at St Paul's. The room is bathed in gentle candlelight, with soft instrumental music playing and the invitation to "Be still and know that I am God" resonating in my heart. How lovely it is to have a place to draw apart and pray for our messy and broken world, for our church, and the people I know are facing illness and challenges in life.



We had a steady stream of people praying yesterday. Today (Wednesday) has been quieter, with the exception of a group of thirty Year 8 girls being shown around St Paul's by David Paech. They were delighted by the prayer room, some curious and asking questions, others eager to try some of the prayer stations, the prayer tent being a favourite! Tonight our Young Adults will meet together to pray in the Prayer room.



The prayer room is open 9am - 6pm daily til Saturday (4pm) and you are welcome to just drop in any time for as long or as short a time as you would like. If you can't make it into the prayer room, you are invited to pray at home especially between the hours of 6pm and 9am!! Thank you to those who have already let me know they will be praying from home.

Global Prayer Week will conclude with a Prayer Breakfast at 8am on Sunday 13 September in the St Paul's cafe.

Prayer opportunities at St Paul's continue...

By special request from Pastor Nev and Pastor Sue (who will both be away on the 15/9), **the Mid Week Service on Tuesday 15th will continue with the theme of Global Prayer, taking on a different form, that of a dedicated Prayer Service**, utilising many of the resources and prayer activities from the Prayer Room, with different Prayer stations set up around the church. All are welcome!

May your prayer rise like incense, a fragrant offering to the LORD!



LUTHER COLLEGE RITE JOURNEY -VISIT TO ST PAUL'S BOX HILL

On Monday, our Year 9 RITE Journey students headed out on their annual Worship Tour, exploring this year's theme: "Is there something more?"

Following an introduction in class to the history of the Christian Church, both pre- and post-Reformation, students visited four churches representing a diverse range of Christian denominations being St Mary's – Star of the Sea, Melbourne, St Paul's Lutheran Church, Box Hill, St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church, Forest Hill and Crossway Baptist Church, Burwood



At each location, students heard from different speakers and reflected on how places of worship support faith, community and connection. They explored the symbolism, architecture and design of each space, considering how these environments are used not only for worship, but also to engage with and serve the wider community.

It was a wonderful opportunity for students to develop new understandings of the similarities and differences between Christian traditions and places of worship, while engaging in a day of thoughtful spiritual reflection.

A special thank you to all of our wonderful speakers, churches and staff for sharing their time, knowledge and perspectives with our students.

Thank you to Luther College for this report and photo and to David Pietsch and David Paech for supporting the event, and the visits by PLC students referred to above and on page 2