



THE FRIEND

11AM | 19 JANUARY 2024

—

Hello! We are glad you could join us for today's worship service at Lygon Street Christian Chapel. We are a friendly, evangelical church in the city of Melbourne. As those seeking to love and follow Jesus Christ, we welcome people from all walks of life and all parts of the world.

In this bulletin, you will find our vision statement, the order of today's service, and other information you may find helpful. It is our prayer that you are blessed worshipping with us today. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the leadership (or anyone who looks like they would know).



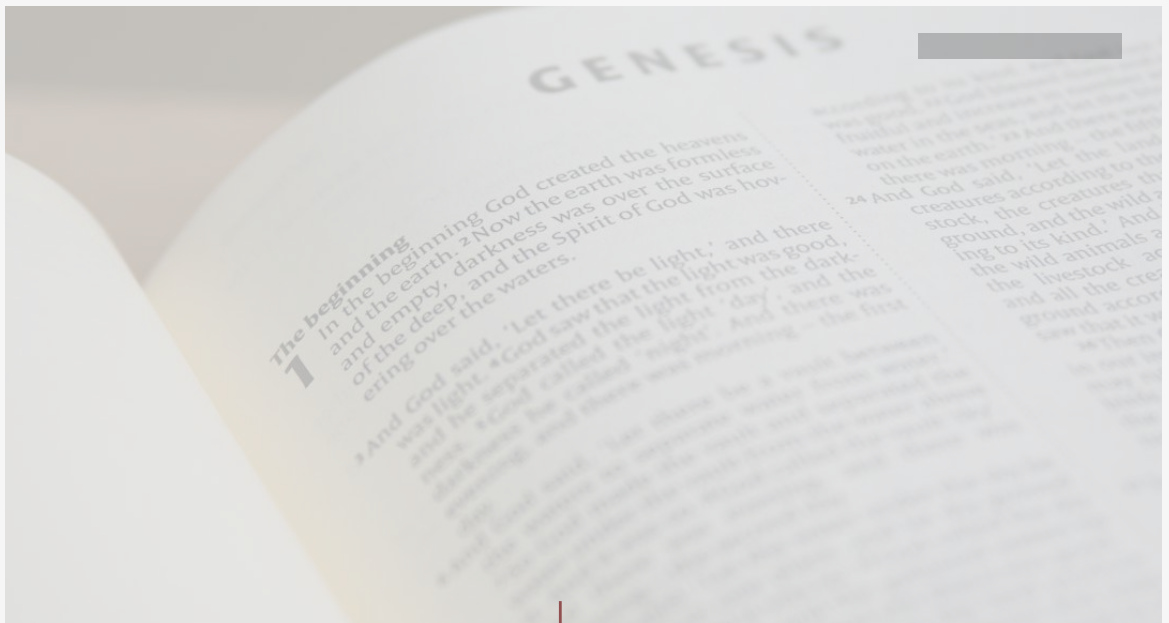
OUR VISION & MISSION

We are a Bible-centered church that exists to bring glory to God.

We believe what the Bible says – that it is God’s perfect word to us.

We seek to teach from His Word faithfully so that every member will build a deep and lasting personal relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and be equipped to share the Good News of God’s free salvation to everyone.

It is our mission to love one another passionately, serve selflessly and reach out lovingly so that those who are far away from God may find new life in Jesus.



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE SERVICE TODAY

— 11AM

Praising God in songs

Welcome

Announcements

Offering

Prayer

Bible reading: Ruth 3: 1-18

Sermon: Redemption or Nothing at All

Closing song: The Lord is My Salvation

Closing

CONNECT

Hello! If you are joining for us for the first time, we welcome you to Lygon Street Christian Chapel. Here are some ways you can connect with us!

For newcomers:

[CONNECT FORM](#)

To view our Sunday service online:

[VIEW LSCC
LIVESTREAM](#)

Subscribe to our mailing list for important updates and announcements:

[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHURCH LUNCH MINISTRY 2025

The Church Lunch team would appreciate more helpers for the ministry. If you are able to help serve in this ministry by being part of a roster that contributes dishes or cleaning up, please contact **Jason Lau (0423 475 560)**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Holiday Announcement

As we approach the end of the year, we would like to inform you that the Sunday School Program will be taking a break over the summer holidays. Please take note of the important dates below:

*There are no classes between 22nd December - 26th January 2025
Sunday School will resume on 2nd February 2025.*

CHURCH PRAYER MEETING - Recess

The church prayer meeting on Wednesday evening is taking a recess till early next year. We like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who are part of this meeting. We are thankful to God for your encouragement and support.

GROWTH GROUPS (Home bible study ministry):

We highly encourage all members of our congregation to be a part of our church's Bible study groups. This will not only encourage our personal walk with Jesus, but also foster a greater church community which serves to build each other up in Christ. If you're not part of a Bible study group and would like to be a part of one, please get in touch with pastor Melvin (Mob: 0402 227506)

CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE

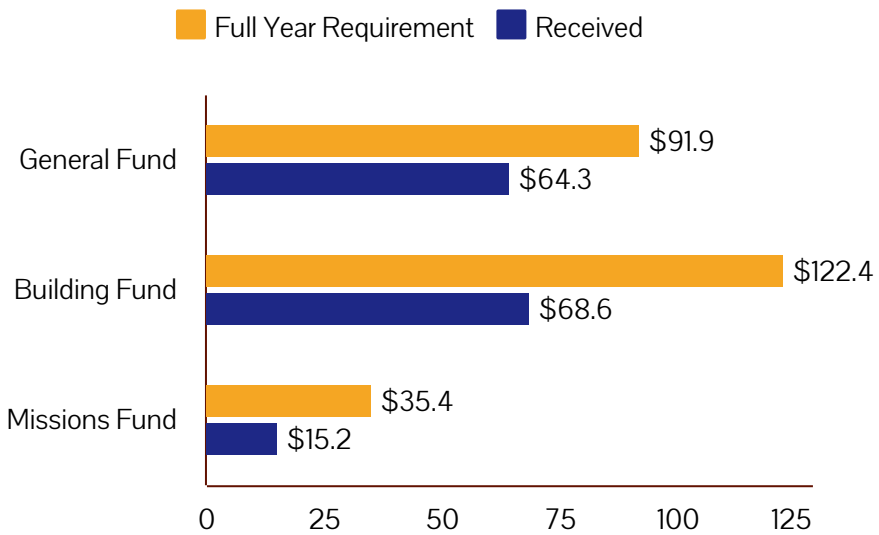
DGR - Building Fund Update

With the bulk of the South-Side-Garden Project having recently been completed, an estimated \$80K project-related payment will be due in January 2025. We encourage you to consider the following:

- i) We will be reducing the minimum contribution to the tax-deductible Building Fund from \$200 to \$50 for the foreseeable future. If you would like to take the opportunity to make a tax-deductible contribution, kindly consider allocating a portion of your regular financial contribution to the Building Fund;
- ii) If you have planned regular contributions to the Building fund, kindly consider advancing these contributions to January 2025. This will allow us to address the bulk of the payment needed for this project, which is our main Building Fund project for 2024/25.

We are thankful for your partnership in this project and should you have any queries regarding the above, please feel free to approach the finance team.

FY2025 Budget vs Actuals ('000) YTD 7th January 2025



Financial Tracker - 1 July 2024 to 15 January 2025

	Avg. Weekly Required	Avg. Weekly Received	Total Period Required	Total Period Received	Total Surplus/(Shortfall)
General Fund	\$1,767	\$2,261	\$50,242	\$64,275	\$14,033
Building Fund	\$2,354	\$2,413	\$66,922	\$68,610	\$1,687
Missions Fund	\$708	\$533	\$20,119	\$15,150	(\$4,969)

GIVING

There are a number of ways in which you can give financially to the work of the church. We have resumed the passing of offering bags during our church services. You may also continue to make your offering online. If you would like to contribute using online banking, transfers can be made directly to LSCC using the following account details:

General Fund – *For all our day to day ministry & administration costs*

Account Name: Lygon St Church of Christ General Fund

BSB: 033-000

Account Number: 593302

Building Fund – *For all our building-related costs*

Account Name: Lygon St Church of Christ Building Fund

BSB: 033-009

Account Number: 805316

Mission Fund – *For mission partners, engaging in evangelism, discipleship, compassion, etc*

Account Name: Lygon St Church of Christ Mission Fund

BSB: 033-000

Account Number: 593310

*Givings to the Building fund are considered as tax-deductible donations and donors will be issued with a tax receipt for each donation. We kindly ask that you keep the Building Fund contributions to a minimum of \$200. This will allow our team to better manage the administrative requirements for issuing tax receipts. For all first-time donors, please kindly email lsc54@gmail.com with your full name and amount contributed.

NEXT SERMON SERIES

FROM BITTERNESS TO

BLESSINGS

Ruth

05.01.2025 / Ruth 1/ Shattered Dreams

12.01.2025/ Ruth 2/ Surprised by Hope

*19.01.2025/ Ruth 3/ Redemption or
Nothing at All!*

26.01.2025/ Ruth 4/ There is a Redeemer!



Lygon Street Christian Church
54 Lygon Street, Carlton, VIC 3053

11 am service

Live Broadcast at: <http://lsc.org.au/live>
11 am (Melbourne Time)

GETTING INVOLVED

SENIORS' MINISTRY

Senior ministry is taking well deserved break. Meeting will resume again in the new year. Please stay tune. For more information, contact Melvin.

M: 0402 227 506 | E: melvinwyllo@gmail.com

CARLTON GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP (CGF)

Carlton Gospel Fellowship (CGF):

University (local and international), post grad, fresh graduates meets every Friday evening 7 pm at the back hall of Lygon Street Christian Chapel:

54 Lygon Street, Carlton.

Feel free to visit our site: bit.ly/carltongf

For more information, you can follow us on:

<https://lsc.org.au/about-us/university-students/>

<https://www.facebook.com/carltongf>

YOUTH GROUP

Year 7 to Year 12 high schoolers meet fortnightly at the back hall of Lygon Street Christian Chapel on Sunday morning for bible study and fellowship.

Time: 10am

For more information, contact Cindy Lee at clsy147@gmail.com; or Swee Yue Tan at sweeyuetan@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (SUNDAY SCHOOL)

There is a Children's ministry and program every Sunday at 11am.

For more information, contact Vut Wong at vut.wong@gmail.com or 0425 299 804.

CHURCH LUNCH MINISTRY

The church lunch usually starts in March and held on the first Sunday of every month after the 11 AM service. It is a vital ministry that brings the church together. The team always have room for more cooks, helpers in setting and cleaning up. For more details, please contact our coordinator: Jason Lau at greatnessjason@gmail.com or 0423 475 560.

GETTING INVOLVED

GROWTH GROUPS

Men and women of all ages from different walks in life meet in different areas during the week to study the Bible.

For more information about the groups and the ministry please contact Melvin at melvinwylo@gmail.com or 0402 227 506

KINDNESS GROUP

Meets in the Eastern suburbs on Friday evenings

PATIENCE GROUP - Jonathan Yu

Meets fortnightly in-person/online (alternating fortnights) in Moonee Ponds on Friday evenings

SELF CONTROL GROUP - Micky Low

Meets in Maribyrnong on Wednesday evenings weekly

PEACE GROUP- Chris Tan & Grace Wong

Meets in Mont Albert/ Doncaster on Friday evenings weekly

JOY GROUP - Joel Tan & Jason Lau

Meets on Zoom Friday evenings

FAITHFULNESS GROUP - Melvin Lo & Swee Yue Tan

Meets on Brunswick West/ Doncaster/ Essendon on Friday evenings weekly

LOVE IN ACTION

CHURCH LUNCH MINISTRY:

- Praise God how this ministry has served the church well by bringing people together.
- **Pray for provision of cooks and helpers for the ministry.**
- Pray for Jason Lau as he and his team plans and prepares for the ministry.

2025:

- Praise God his sustaining grace in helping us through 2024. We are thankful for the many answered prayers and in leading us through the year.
- As we step into 2025, pray that we would continue to be a Gospel centred church.
- Pray that our Lord will continue to bring many more in 2025 to come to know Jesus as their loving Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for numerical and spiritual growth.
- Pray that we as a church would grasp in deeper understanding of Jesus' love for us and as a response we would love him and one another deeper.

SOUTH SIDE GARDEN

- Praise God for the on-going work and for God's provision for funds for this project.
- We thank God that the project seems to be coming up very well.
- We also praise God for providing sufficient funds for this project.
- Please pray that this space would be used in ways that glorify our Lord Jesus.
- We thank God for Percival Wong and Christian Ong for their roles in supervising this project. We thank God for their availability and faithfulness.

BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS

- Pray for wisdom upon the Eldership and Deacons as they continue to play for 2025.
- Pray for our Lord's protection and provision as they serve our Lord in their roles.
- Pray that each of them would grow in their grasp of Jesus' love for them and his church. Pray that each of them would grow in Christ.
- Praise God for each of them as they willingly serve our Lord as board members.

LOVE IN ACTION

CARLTON GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP (CGF)

- As the CGF takes brief recess for the summer break, pray for the committee as they plan for the year ahead. Pray that they will have a restful break.
- Praise God for those who has committed their lives to Jesus in 2024. Pray for their protection and they will continue to grow in Jesus.
- Many would be spending their summer break in their home country with the family. Pray for restful break, safe travel and that the CGFers would be sensitive to opportunities to witness to their love ones.

SENIORS MINISTRY:

- Please pray for safety for **Jeanette Gan's** travel to Singapore and Malaysia from the 3rd Dec to 23 Dec 2024. She's planning to attend her nephew's wedding. Pray for protection and our Lord to sustain her health in this trip. Pray for **Oi Lee Chan** who are spending time in Malaysia and returning in March 2025. Pray for safe travels and salvation for family members.
- Pray for **Neil Hawthorn** that our Lord will continue to watch over him and protect him. He will be having an epilepsy appointment this Friday. It will be part of the process in the preparation for the scheduled brain surgery in June 2025. Pray for productive appointment. Please pray for success in this operation and it will help Neil's health in the long term. Last Thursday, Neil was unable to walk for an hour. His hips and knees would not respond and he's unsure if it a neurological or osteoarthritis issue. Please continue to pray that our Lord would provide and help him in situations like this.
- **Jenny Loo** would like to thank God for providing her with safety in travel to Hong Kong and for bringing her back safely to Melbourne. She like to thank God for providing her daughter Fiona and family with a good rental place close to the schools in Blackburn. Please pray for provision for good tenants to rent their place in Hillside.
- Pray for **Joseph Bautista** in his work that he will be a wonderful witness for Jesus. Pray that his health will hold up with the white cells increasing to the required level. Pray for strength as Joseph feels tiredness after blood transfusion. Praise God for **Fe Bautista** surgery and she's recovering well. Praise God for the successful operation and she was able to walk on day 2 after the surgery.
- Pray for **Edwin Tai** as he goes for his dialysis three times a week. Pray that our Lord will continue to provide for his needs and look after him. Praise God for Edwin and Emily's joyful outlook and their thankfulness to our good Lord. Pray for **Emily Tai** as she continues to recover from the recent mild heart attack.
- Pray for the Seniors' ministry as they take a brief recess over the summer break from their studies that they will continue to grow in Christ. Pray for their protection and provision.

LOVE IN ACTION



INTERNATIONAL CHINA CONCERN

- We thank God for ICC's work in supporting the 'hidden' children.
- Praise God for His abundant provision of the funds we need in 2024 to care for children with disabilities and their families in China.
- Pray that the children in our care centre, especially those who have experienced abandonment, will feel an outpouring of God's love during the joyful Chinese New Year festive season.
- Pray that our Outreach Team will continue to strengthen and empower vulnerable families as they care for their children with disabilities.



DAVID & CATHY WALTER | AFES - FOCUS

Dear Friends,

Thank you for praying!

We've made it to the end of a very big year with much to be thankful for!

Despite some wet weather and delays in international guest arrivals, **NTE in Qld**

was a great week! David preached clearly through the book of Revelation and encouraged us to live faithfully for King Jesus On the Edge of Eternity. South Pacific IFES delegates were trained in Bible use, and Cathy had many fruitful catch ups.

Praise God for sustaining us and using us at NTE.

Thankfully, we now have some **time off** - with plans to stay home(!), rest, continue settling into our new home in Ocean Grove and hopefully get some beach swims in.

Thank God for time to stop and rest.

We remain so **deeply thankful** for each of you - and thank God for your generous love & support of us and the proclamation of the gospel amongst university students through AFES & IFES.

May He richly bless you this Christ

Cathy Walter



December Update

Serving Ch Ms in cross cultural work through equipping, care and support.



Dear Friends and Supporters

Debrief

This October, I (Yen Ping) had the privilege of being part of a core planning team for a Debrief.

Debrief is more than just a time to recount events—it's a safe, structured space where missionaries can process the emotional and spiritual impact of their work and experiences. It is a healthy and vital part of long-term cross-cultural service. It was a privilege for me to be part of this planning team, working alongside a group of gifted and passionate people. The synergy within our team was evident, and it was amazing to see how our strengths came together to shape the debrief into a meaningful, life-giving experience for everyone involved.

A powerful metaphor we introduced in this debrief was the Japanese art of ****Kintsugi****—the practice of repairing broken pottery with gold or silver lacquer. In our Christian lives, we can think of Kintsugi as a picture of how God works in our brokenness. Our scars and wounds—whether physical, emotional, or spiritual—are not marks of shame but signs of God's restorative power. He takes what is fractured and makes it whole again, sometimes in ways that make us even more beautiful than before.



One of the most meaningful moments for me came during my devotion sharing from Genesis 32:22-32 - the story of Jacob wrestling with God. In this passage, Jacob was physically and spiritually broken as he wrestled with God, and though he left the encounter with a limp, he was ultimately blessed. This passage spoke powerfully to me, as I reflected on my own journey through grief—particularly the loss we experienced when we had to leave the Big Country abruptly. In my preparations for the devotion, I was able to revisit that difficult chapter in my life and process it once again.

We are all like jars of clay—fragile and imperfect—but it is in our fragility that God's treasure shines the brightest.

Kelvin also led several sessions, including teachings on personal storylines that guide the participants to understand the importance of telling our stories and how they shape who we are. His session on re-entry was insightful and practical. Overall, the Lord had used this Debrief for personal renewal for the participants and brought them to a deeper understanding of how He works in and through brokenness.



Flooding in Thailand

In late September and early October 2024, intense rainfall led to the overflow of rivers, particularly the river, which runs through the city. The heavy downpours overwhelmed drainage systems, leading to flash floods in several areas, particularly in low-lying neighbourhoods, resulting in severe flooding with significant disruption and damage.

Many families from our church, some coworkers and families from our boys' school were affected and had to evacuate from their homes. The flooding affected homes, businesses, and infrastructure, with roads and bridges submerged in some parts of the city. Our church ground was also severely damaged. Kelvin and Nathan helped out as part of the church's cleaning crew when the flood subsided. We thank God that our residential area mainly stayed dry. Although the school was not affected, our boys had to do home learning online as many of the families in our school lived in the flood zone. We spent some time helping to clean up our church. As of now, many in Thailand are still recovering from the flood's aftermath. We know some families are still renovating or refurbishing their homes.



Flood in the city



Loy Krathong

Loy Krathong and Yee Peng

This November, our family had the privilege of witnessing the vibrant and beautiful celebrations of Loy Krathong here. This tradition is deeply ingrained in Thai culture. The festival is centred around the symbolic act of releasing a "krathong" (a small, often intricately decorated boat made of banana leaves, flowers, and candles) into the river to honour the water goddess and to ask for forgiveness for any wrongdoings or to simply express gratitude. Our family went to the riverside during one evening to see the locals do the procession of lights and release the lanterns to fill the sky. The boys were excited as they witnessed the city come alive with light and colour. It was a special time for all of us to deepen our understanding of Thai culture.



PLEASE PRAY FOR US



- The kids finished school and is amidst their 3 weeks of school holidays. Pray for a good quality family time during this period.
- We ask for prayers as we discern how, as a team we can best fit in the trainings, retreats, debriefs and happenings in 2025. You can pray for good collaboration among the various teams involved and that God will continue to humble us to be in a learning posture as we serve the Ch Ms through the various initiatives.
- We are praying for the development of a dedicated TCK (Third Culture Kid) focus team to serve children better during debriefs, retreats, and trainings. Please pray that the Lord will bring along suitable workers who have hearts to serve the TCKs.

We thank you for partnering with us through your prayers for us.

Blessings

Yen Ping & Kelvin, with Nathan, Ian & Jovan



Cleaning Crew after the flood



Christmas Eve in church



BIBLE READING

RUTH 3 : 1-18

One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for?"

2 Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been, a kinsman of ours? Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. **3**

Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. **4** When he lies down, note the place where he is lying.

Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do." **5**

"I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered. **6** So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do. **7**

When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. **8** In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet. **9** "Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer." **10** "The Lord bless you, my daughter," he replied.

"This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier:

You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. **11** And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character.

12 Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I. **13** Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to redeem, good; let him redeem. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it.

Lie here until morning." **14** So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, "Don't let it be known that a woman came to the threshing floor." **15** He also said,

"Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out." When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and put it on her. Then he went back to town.

16 When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, "How did it go, my daughter?" Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her

17 and added, "He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, 'Don't go back to your mother-in-law emptyhanded.'" **18** Then Naomi said, "Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today."