

SCOTS' *weekly*

NEWSLETTER OF THE SCOTS' CHURCH MELBOURNE

Friday, 17 January 2025

Dear Friends,

My Christmas holiday reading included a fun book by Richard Osman called "**We Solve Murders.**" At one point, heroes Steve and his daughter-in-law Amy are being chased around the world by a hit man. Hunted by him on a Mediterranean island, they make a quick change to their travel plans, diverting the bad guy to Hawaii while they fly in the other direction to Dublin.

Ziping around the world, avoiding **murder** attempts, an unlikely team of heroes dodging their opponents – it's a gripping story. I mention that, because if you've been following through our series in the book of Acts, you'll find all the same exciting elements. So, for example, in Acts 20...

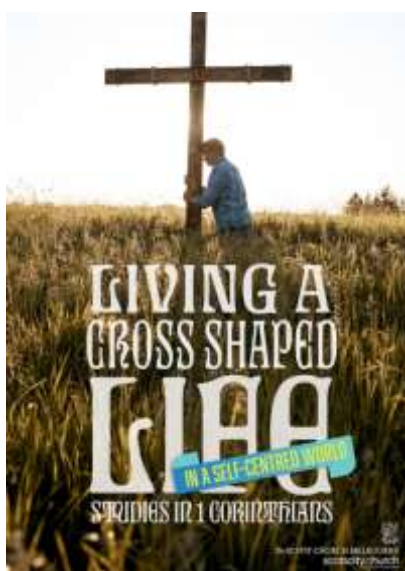
Paul spent three months in Greece, and **when a plot was made** against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

Mirroring the plot in "We Solve Murders", Paul jumps ship at the last moment, and foils the deadly plots of his opponents! Sometimes we approach biblical narratives expecting them to be dull, but perhaps if we embrace the story as it unfolds, there's more excitement than we think!

In any case, that's where we pick up the account on Sunday; we'll be following it for the next week or two, before pausing again and moving on to our Term 1 teaching series.

Arthur, Justin and I have been working closely together in preparing a series of studies and sermons that will bring together our morning and evening congregations, and our Tuesday small groups, around Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

The series is called "Living a Cross Shaped Life in a Self Centred World".



Over ten weeks, we'll take a guided tour of this challenging letter, learning how the example of our crucified Lord Jesus is meant to shape our everyday lives, whether as cross-shaped leaders or cross-shaped church members, exercising cross-shaped freedom in cross-shaped relationships using cross-shaped gifts and cross shaped words.

In essence, the Christian challenge is that all those areas of life are to be marked by service and sacrifice, rather than the pursuit of glory and power.

Can I encourage you to make this the year you join us for Tuesday evening Small Groups? We'll be spending an hour or so considering each theme in the lead up to the Sunday sermon.

Groups relaunch on Tuesday January 28th, and the series will launch on Sunday February 2nd.



Thanks to all who are responding to my “Sing Praises Together” campaign! Last Sunday was terrific. This week we've got two favourites in the mix, with “All people who on earth do dwell” early in the service and “To God Be the Glory” to close.

I hope this email finds you well. I've been battling a chest cold, but it's improving – I'm certainly hoping to be 'match-fit' for Sunday.

Every blessing,

Phil Campbell
Senior Minister
The Scots' Church Melbourne

SESSION NEWS

The elders and officers of the Scots' Church Session will hold their first meeting of the year on **Wednesday 5 February**, commencing at 7.30pm in the Robert White Hall.

PHIL COURT
Session Clerk

SCOTS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIARY DATES

Vespers – 5 February – 5.30pm for a 5.45pm start – Scots' Church
Foundation Day – Sunday 9th February 11am

NEW CAR PARKING SYSTEM

Last week went really well with the new system, thank you.

We have now compiled all the latest carpark information including the video, pdf, and included a feedback form at <https://scotschurch.com/carpark/> so that you can let us know how you are going.

Thank you again for your patience with this new payment system.

SUNDAY MORNING SOCIAL TEAM – CALLING FOR YOU!!



Morning tea and the opportunity to chat with members and welcome newcomers after the Sunday service is an important and enjoyable part of church life.

We are planning to set up a roster of congregation members who would like to participate in setting up and looking after the provision of tea and coffee in the Westpac function room after the service. It involves setting up disposable cups with tea or coffee together with individually packaged biscuits provided by Scots', and assisting people along the way. Extra biscuits etc are not required. Tidying up afterwards is simple as disposable items are used.

If you are interested in being a volunteer for the roster, please talk to Louise Campbell, Rosalie Strother on Sunday, or Wendy Gregory in the church office, for further details about how to become part of our Sunday Morning Social Team!

FLEMINGTON MISSION

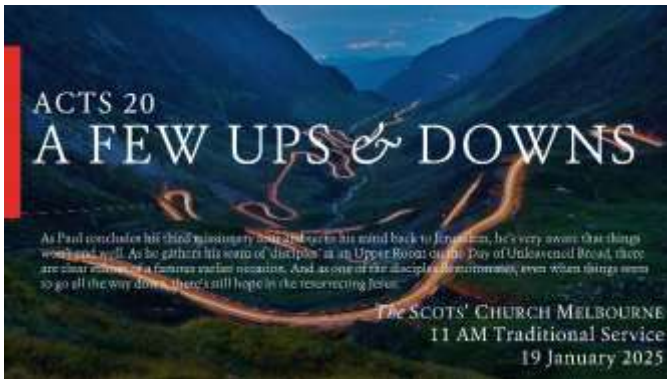
The Flemington Mission is seeking the following nonperishable items.

If you can help, the items can be dropped off either at the office or after Church at the Westpac mezzanine level where we have a cup of tea & coffee.

- Jars of instant coffee,
- Nappies
- Olive oil
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Perfume, aftershave
- Breakfast cereal like Nutragrain, Muesli, Just Right
- Biscuits
- Children's lunch box snacks and drinks

SCOTS' ON SUNDAY

11am service



This will also be streamed live on YouTube.
Please join <https://youtu.be/t9j0MO-nFM8>
or visit scotschurch.com/service-info for details.

The **'Sing Praises Together'** song this week is: 'All people who on earth do dwell'

How to Contact Us

Telephone and after-hours answering service: 03 9650 9903 (leave a message if unattended)
Email: reception@scotschurch.com
Website: www.scotschurch.com
Website - St. Stephens and the Mission: www.scotschurch.com/flemington-mission

Freewill Giving

Planned giving, electronically or via envelopes can be arranged with Reception
By electronic transfer to BSB 083 004, Account number 630 327 585
By cheque made out to The Scots' Church Melbourne, posted to 1/156 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000
By the tap and pay terminal in the foyer. (You can make multiple taps if the preset amount is insufficient.)
By credit card over the phone, telephone the office on 9650 9903 (leave a message and we will call you back)