

## Next Week's Bible Talks

### 8:30am Bexley

Jason Veitch on "Living by Hope"  
(Jeremiah 32-33)

### 9:00am Carlton

Kevin Stepniewski on "Living by Hope"  
(Jeremiah 32-33)

### 10:30am Carlton

Kevin Stepniewski on "Living by Hope"  
(Jeremiah 32-33)

### 10:30am Bexley North

Jason Veitch on "Living by Hope"  
(Jeremiah 32-33)

### 4.30pm Bexley North

Jason Veitch on "Living by Hope"  
(Jeremiah 32-33)

### 6.30pm Church

Kevin Stepniewski on "Living by Hope"  
(Jeremiah 32-33)

## Events

### Prayer Meetings

First Saturday of every month, 8am  
Email [office@snac.org.au](mailto:office@snac.org.au) for location.

### English for Life

Every Friday during school terms,  
9:30-11:30am at St James

## Contact Us

### General Enquiries

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## Sunday Locations

### 8:30am Bexley (Contact Jason)

Corner of Albyn St & Dunmore St, Bexley

### 9:00am Carlton (Contact Kevin)

St James' Carlton, entry via Percival St

### 10:30am Carlton (Contact Phil)

Carlton Public School, entry via Cameron St

### 10:30am Bexley North (Contact Jason)

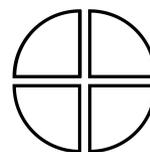
Holy Trinity, entry via Carrisbrook Ave

### 4:30pm Bexley North (Contact Jason)

Holy Trinity, entry via Carrisbrook Ave

### 6.30pm Church (Contact Troy)

Carlton Public School, entry via Cameron St



St George North  
Anglican Church

Glorifying God by  
Proclaiming Jesus | Growing Disciples | Serving Together

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## What happens after the vote?

Next week the result of the postal survey on so-called "same-sex marriage" will be released. While the debate has been an important one, I must admit that I for one will be happy to see the end of it.

However, it is now worth thinking about a Christian response to the outcome. I am not a political pundit so it is no use me even trying to predict the outcome. So let's think about the different possibilities.

If the 'No' vote is the majority, then in many ways Christian's attitudes and actions should not change at all. It will be a pleasant surprise that more Australians are conservative on the issue than many think, but that doesn't mean they are any closer to God. For Christians we will just get on with the job of preaching Christ and offering salvation to all people. We will also need to keep walking that line of declaring the truth of God's word on homosexual practice while showing love and grace to all. However, it would be surprising if a 'No' win was accepted by those in favour and so in all likelihood the debates will continue.

If the 'Yes' vote is the majority then it is likely "same-sex marriage" will become law very quickly. In that short window Christians should continue to lobby for the safeguarding of religious freedoms and freedom of speech within the legislation, while accepting that this is the will of the people.

However, the question remains: once it does become law, how should we respond? Here are a few thoughts:

**1) Accept the decision of the people and the government.** In the end this is not the main battle for Christians. This is not the hill on which we want to die. While it has been up for debate, it has been right for Christians to express our democratic right and speak against same-sex marriage out of our desire to do what is best for society. However, we should not expect that a world that does not know Jesus would want to live God's way. Sometimes laws will reflect Christian ideals but increasingly they won't. This will just be the next example of that last type of law. As always, we should submit to our government while ever that does not compromise our submission to Christ.

**2) Continue to hold to and teach the truth of God's word** (on this and every topic) even if it does go against the law of the land. It will need real courage over the next few years to continue to say that homosexual practice is sinful and unacceptable. Increasingly, Christians will be under pressure to agree that homosexual activity is good, or at the very least, keep silent. We need to pray that Christians will not bend on this issue. If you are not convinced of the reality of this, please look up the case of the Christian Social Work student in England who was expelled from his university course for daring to post on Facebook that he believed homosexual activity was a sin.

*(continued page 2.....)*

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**3) Think through the difficult ethical decisions that this will raise.** Once “same sex marriage” becomes law it will then become illegal to ‘discriminate’ against same-sex couples. This raises all sorts of questions for Christians:

- How should a Christian teacher react when required to teach a positive view of homosexual practice if that is part of the curriculum?
- Should a Christian attend a ‘wedding’ of a friend or family member, or should we not attend to show that we do not agree?

These are the sort of ethical decisions we will need to make and we will need to be careful not to base them on emotional responses (either way) but instead on trusting in the authority of Scripture.

**4) Continue to pray for our country.** Of course in the end, this decision is not the most important thing for us. More than anything we long that people come to know Jesus. So whatever the result, let’s get on with praying for our nation that people would find salvation in Christ.

Phil Colgan

## Partnership in the Gospel

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.* (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)



Our work can only happen through the generous support of our church members. Please prayerfully consider your giving so that we are able to do the things under God we have planned to do.

For those wishing to give electronically the church’s Bank account details are:

Bank: Westpac  
BSB: 032 158

Account Name: Parish of St George North General A/C  
Account No.: 268126

## What’s happening for Christmas?



Christmas is only a few weeks away and what better opportunity is there to invite friends and family to church to hear about Jesus?

So, in order that you can be prepared and planning ahead, here is what is happening. Prior to Christmas there will be different events happening attached to each of our congregations and ministries so keep your ears peeled for those dates. However, the major Christmas services are outlined on the next page.

### Bexley

**CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday 24 December 8:30am** - Christmas Eve Carols with evangelistic message.

**CHRISTMAS DAY 8:30am** – Holy Communion service

### Bexley North

**Sunday 17 December – 10:30am Family Carols service**

The Sunday before Christmas is always a good opportunity to invite friends and family to church before the silly season gets really silly. Our Bexley North congregation will have a Christmas Carols service with an evangelistic Gospel message. Afterwards will be lunch and other fun activities including a jumping castle and face painting for the Bexley North congregation and local visitors.

NB There will be a normal 4:30pm service on that day.

**CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday 24 December – 4:30pm Traditional Carols service**

A Christmas Eve service that is aimed more at adults. A great opportunity to invite friends along to hear about the true meaning of Christmas (but without puppets, glow sticks and jumping castles).

NB There will be a normal 10:30am service on that day.

**CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30am** – Family service

### Carlton

**CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday 24 December**

There will be no morning services at Carlton on Christmas Eve so that people can focus on the two evening services.

**4:30pm Family Carols at Carlton Public School**

This will be our now traditional family Christmas carols celebration with lots of things for kids, lots of singing and maybe even a jumping castle.

**6:30pm Traditional Carols service at St James Carlton**

A Christmas Eve service that is aimed more at adults. A great opportunity to invite friends along to hear about the true meaning of Christmas (but without puppets, glow sticks and jumping castles).

**CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30am** – Family service