



**Bible Readings**

*This week from Lectionary*



**Acts 10:44-48**  
**Psalms 98**  
**1 John 5:1-6**  
**John 15:9-17**

**Response after Bible Readings**  
**Leader:** *Hear the word of the Lord*  
**Response:** *Thanks be to God*



**9am—Combined Worship**  
Led by Jon Humphries  
includes  
● **Mission Planning**  
● **Closure of Ministry for Mike Strong**  
● **Thanksgiving for Warren Arthur**  
**Willows Worship Leader**  
**KUCA** in Recess  
Followed by Morning Tea

**11am-12pm Christian Meditation**  
**Introductory Course Week 5**  
in the church

**No evening worship today**

Welcome to St. Matthew's Community Room.  
Children are very welcome at St. Matthew's and that means their noise is welcome too. This room is here if you feel the need to step out of the service or would like some more privacy but still want to see and hear what's going on in the service.  
**OPEN FROM 9.30AM**

**Livestreaming**  
**9am Combined**  
**only**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

**What's happening this week at St. Matthew's**

**MONDAY 6 May**  
**9am—Sorting & Pricing**  
**for Op Shop & Garage Sale**  
lower hall

**TUESDAY 7 May**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation**  
community room **Includes**  
**Introductory Course Week 5**  
**10.30am—Care and Prayer**  
Community Room and Church

**WEDNESDAY 8 May**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**10am-12pm—Women's Fellowship**  
**"Mother's Day High Tea"**. Please bring your favourite cup, saucer and plate, and a small plate of food. You can also invite a friend if you so desire. **upstairs hall**  
**7.30pm—Church Council**  
**Executive Meeting** upstairs hall

**THURSDAY 9 May**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**FRIDAY 10 May**  
**5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group**  
upstairs hall

**SATURDAY 11 May**  
**No Scheduled Events**

**SUNDAY**  
**12 MAY**

**8am—Worship**  
include Communion

**9am—Worship @ the Willows**

**9.30am—Worship**  
include Communion

**KUCA** Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8  
Followed by morning tea

**11-12pm Christian Meditation**  
**Introductory Course**  
**Week 6 Final**  
in the church

**6.45pm--Worship**  
include Communion



**MINISTER**

REV JON HUMPHRIES  
Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**  
**MINISTRY WORKER**

DANIEL GIBB *Part Time*  
Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**SENIORS PASTORAL CARER**

MICHAEL STRONG *Part Time*  
Email: mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:**

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

**OFFICE :** 9686 3003  
Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**LOCATION:**

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS  
BAULKHAM HILLS

**POSTAL ADDRESS:**

BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH  
PO Box 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

**WEB SITE:** www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au  
Weekly newsletter available on website

**FACEBOOK:**

@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA  
PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

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Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

# Something to think about

## 5 May

### **Mission and Vision Sunday**

#### **Lectionary Readings:**

### **Sixth Sunday in Easter**

*(Please Note: We won't be having a service like we normally do with Bible reading and sermon and so we won't reading them in the service. However, they are helpful in helping us understand the mission of God and what we are called to.)*

**Acts 10:44-48**

**Psalms 98**

**1 John 5:1-6**

**John 15:9-17**

#### **Joining in the Mission of God**

We are the people of God, the Body of Christ and the Church. We are called to join God in God's work in the world. As we have been reflecting on over the past few months, we can't claim to love God and not love others. We can't claim to be God's people and not join in working to bring the Kingdom of God further into being.

This Sunday we are considering how we might join in God's mission. It is important to remember that mission is not something that we do, but something that we are given, which in turn leads us into doing things.

We are called and commissioned to do work in the world. In theological terms it is God's mission that we called to join in. This is the 'missio dei' which is Latin for the mission of God. The mission of God is what we are given as the Church – mission being a task and/or purpose. The work of God is our work as the Church. We join with God in God's mission through serving and embodying the love of God to the world. Of course the part of the work of God which include redeeming and saving the world is God's alone.

Here is a helpful video from the Bible Project which helps us understand what it means for us to join God in God's mission and work. 'You're Supposed to Rule the World (Here's How)' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbipxLDtY8c>

For me we have a co-mission from God. This is a play on the word commission. A commission is an instruction, command, or role given to a person or group. Our commission as the Church is essentially twofold, and the two parts sit side by side. We have the 'Greatest Commandment,' which is to love God with our whole being and muchness and to love our neighbour as ourselves, which is our expression of how we love God. You can find this in Matthew 22:34–40, Mark 12:28–34 and Luke 10:25–28. We also are called to be disciples, disciple other and teach everything that Jesus, as the incarnation of God and as the Christ, commanded us to. This you can find this is Matthew 28:16-20 and is often referred to as the 'Great Commission.' Because these exist side-by-side, I name them as the co-missions of God. They exist as a whole as part of who we are called to be as the Church.

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## Joining in the Mission of God - continued

If you haven't ever read the Basis of Union or haven't read it recently, it is worth taking a look at. Here is the link: <https://uniting.church/basisofunion/>



So, we all have gifts and every gift leads us into ministry, because they are there to help us love our neighbour as ourselves. Even our weaknesses, problems or issues can be used as a gift because they allow others to love us as neighbours as they use their gifts to care for and help us. It is important to note that we aren't given bad stuff in our lives by God, but like Jesus said when he was asked

Having been commissioned by God with this co-mission we have some work to do to embody the love of God to others and to bring people into the love of God. This leads us to consider how we might begin to discern exactly how we might do this. Trying to discern and work out what exactly God is calling us to do can seem a complex process, and it is in many ways, as we try to work our gifts and talents, look to the needs of others, and work out which needs we need to prioritise and how to work together as the Body of Christ to weave together all the range of gifts and talents into our ministry and service. However, at the core of our joining in God's mission is our using the gifts that we have to serve others in their need and to be served in our need which allows others to use their gifts and talents. Our gifts help shape our calling into ministry as individuals and as a community. Our Basis of Union, which is the document which sets out the basis of our coming together as the Uniting Church in 1977 from the different founding denominations talks about this. It states, **"The Uniting Church affirms that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be his faithful servant. It acknowledges with thanksgiving that the one Spirit has endowed the members of Christ's Church with a diversity of gifts, and that there is no gift without its corresponding service: all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ.**

about why a man was born blind (John 9:1-12), the situation of other's need present us with the gift of an opportunity to use our gifts, just as our difficult situation presents others with the gift of an opportunity to love us as a neighbour.

We are the Church. We are called to be the Body of Christ so that we can individually and together embody the love of God to the world and to join God in God's mission. Our mission is to join in God's mission which is to continue to bring the Kingdom of God nearer and more fully into being. To better do this we need to discern our gifts and strengths, the needs of our neighbours and the think of ways in which we can bring our gifts to help meet the needs of others. When we love others then we are loving God and God lives in us and we in God. When we love others as God loved us in the person of Jesus, the Christ, then the love of God comes to life in us and we bear good fruit because we are doing as we are commanded. (John 15: 12-17) In this we are also learning to be good disciples.

We have the co-mission of God which is about how we join God in God's mission. What we are being called to do and be as part of God's mission gives us a lot to think about.

God bless

Jon





## PEOPLE NEWS

Ron Mallyon  
Melissa Gibson Darling

Our very best wishes to all the St. Matthew's community who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

5—11 May  
India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka



MAY 2024  
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES  
at the church

5th May - 9am Combined includes  
\* Mission Planning  
\* Closure of Ministry for Mike Strong  
\* Thanksgiving for Warren Arthurs as Willows Worship Leader

12th May - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm  
includes Communion

19th May - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

26th May - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services

 **Op Shop Support Needed**

**People to help with:**

- Sorting and Pricing 'trash and treasure' for the Garage Sales
- Washing pre-loved 'treasures'
- Sorting & Pricing second hand clothing
- Serving customers
- Creating shop displays

For more Information please contact the church office.

PENTECOST

**WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD**

a daily Bible reading guide based on the Revised Common Lectionary

Volume 17, Number 7  
13 May To 11 August 2024

is available in the church foyer.  
**Please place \$7 in offering bag to cover costs.**

VOL. 17, NO. 7  
13 MAY - 11 AUGUST 2024

**LOST PROPERTY BOX**

PLEASE CHECK THE LOST PROPERTY BOX IF YOU HAVE LOST ANY ITEMS WHILE AT THE CHURCH.

**THE LOST PROPERTY BOX IS LOCATED ON THE CABINETS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS.**

*Weekly*  
**SYNOD SPOTLIGHT**  
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for 26 April 2024 please see link :  
[New Insights \(uca.org.au\)](http://www.uca.org.au)

The St. Matthew's Uniting Church weekly Newsletter is available to view at the end of each week for the upcoming Sunday on the St. Matthew's website [www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)  
Click on the metal dove image / publications or find in recent posts.



## INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A SIX WEEK COURSE**

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS  
Corner of Charles St & Edgar St, Baulkham Hills

**CONTACT:  
Katherine**

This course provides an opportunity for those interested in finding out about Christian Meditation to experience the practice in a small group, to learn about its origins and to discover its relevance as a form of prayer for the contemporary world.

**SUNDAY MORNINGS**  
11.00am-12 noon  
(Weekly for 6 weeks)  
From 7 April – 12 May

**TUESDAY MORNINGS**  
9.30am-10.30am  
(Weekly for 6 weeks)  
From 9 April – 14 May



## Volunteer Form

Assisting with  
Morning Services



**June, July & August 2024**

Have been emailed or  
collect a copy from the foyer.

**NEW HELPERS  
WELCOME**



Please return forms to the blue  
mail tray or church office.



### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION



**NEW GROUP  
MONDAY  
Evenings**  
7.30pm—8.30pm  
Starting 20th May

**Tuesdays** at the Church 9.30am-10.30am  
For more information or to express your  
interest in attending please contact  
Katherine Pedersen for more information.  
Facilitator [kathped56@gmail.com](mailto:kathped56@gmail.com)



You can also  
make a  
donation by  
clicking on the  
link below or

Scan to Donate



Unique ID: 48251631

**We're hosting a  
Biggest Morning Tea**

Please help us  
support people  
impacted by cancer!

Barry Gregory  
0425 815 340  
Dulcie Duncum  
0417 070 848

You are invited to join with us for  
**'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea'**  
being held at the home of  
**Dulcie & Peter Duncum**  
**at 53 Sarah Crescent Baulkham Hills**  
**Friday 31st May.**  
Everyone is welcome,  
so please come and join with us  
**from 10.00 am**  
in support of the work and fundraising of  
The Cancer Council and of our many friends who  
have journeyed with cancer.  
Bring your friends also.  
We look forward to your company.

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/DulcieDuncum/biggest-morning-tea-nsw>

# ***Community Presentation Uniting Church Wentworthville*** **23rd May 2024**

*Wentworthville Uniting Church are hosting (on behalf of Presbytery) a Face Dementia presentation led by Dr Meredith Gresham, a Research fellow in the school of Health and Society in the University of Wollongong.*

## **Worried about dementia and brain health?**

- Learn about dementia and how to recognise the early signs and changes.
- Learn how to reduce your risk of dementia.
- Get tips to improve your brain health.
- This is your chance to have all your questions answered.

**TIME: 10:00am**

**VENUE: Uniting Church 115 Station Street, Wentworthville**

 Face Dementia



Free Community Presentation

### ***Meredith writes:***

"We are 7 Australian Universities working on the ['Face Dementia'](#) project, which aims to reduce stigma of dementia and communicate with the public to help them recognise the signs, ask a GP and get the right treatments and support. Currently it is estimated around 50% of all people with dementia never get a diagnosis. We are focusing on Western Sydney in this campaign where population statistics indicate there should be between 9-12,000 people with dementia, whereas only a little over 3,300 people have diagnosis are registered with their GP.

I am delighted that Dirk is keen to utilise our services to help your congregations better recognise people with dementia to get the right support. We are targeting older people (over 65) and adult children who may be concerned about a parent or older relative.

Our team are happy to provide talks (tailored to audience), run information tables at events, write article and blogs for newsletters, speak to welfare staff/lay staff or other ways to get positive messages out that there are benefits to diagnosis... not least getting help and support to live well. We can use our Dementia Australia Advocates to speak from lived experience of dementia as well".

***You are warmly invited to attend this event.***