



Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

Psalm 23, John 10: 22-30

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



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

at all . **8am**
three . **9.30am**
worship . **9.30am**
services . **6.45pm**

8am—Worship

Led by Dean Drayton

9.30am—Worship

Led by Dean Drayton

KUCA Campout no KUCA today

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Barbara Gibb, Nicola Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 16 MAY

No Scheduled Activities

TUESDAY 17 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am—Christian Meditation

in the church

7.30pm-9.30pm—Thrive Bible

Study lower hall

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Men's Morning

Tea meet at Mckel's Café, Shop 14,

Circa Boulevard Bella Vista.

THURSDAY 19 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 20 MAY

7pm-9pm—ALIVE Youth

Group upstairs hall

SATURDAY 21 MAY

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY

22 MAY

Easter 6

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship



MINISTERS - EVERYONE

SUPPLY MINISTER

REV. CLIVE PEARSON **0409 523 024**

Email: minister@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

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

EMAIL: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

FACEBOOK:

[@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills)

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Crossing Cultures

An yeong ha seyo, bula vinaka,

In his sequel to the gospel Luke provides for 'dear Theophilus' an account of the spread of the gospel from the Ascension of Jesus through to Paul's arrival in Rome and his living there for two years. It is not a history of the very earliest days of the church as we would know and 'do' history today. We are inclined to ask a lot more questions. The way it is told nevertheless, gives us a window on how the infant church became inclusive of a diversity of cultures rather than being a minority sect within Judaism.

Our reading this week is likely to seem a little strange. Imagine a church council meeting where the chair is asked 'why did he go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?'. And, then, in response to this question, s/he replies how s/he had been in a trance and beheld a number of different kind of animals that s/he was told to kill. S/he hesitates because they are unclean animals and these dietary laws separate him/her, as a Jew, from the Gentiles. The narrative continues and it ends up with him/her sharing a meal and the gospel with a household of those who are uncircumcised and who eat unclean food.

Our church council meetings are nothing like this one in Jerusalem. It may seem odd to us but the issues at stake in Peter's report are far more far-reaching than would be found in any report to presbytery, synod or assembly. It is revolutionary. It represents a fresh understanding of how God is present and at work in the midst of those who are in a covenantal relationship.

We often interpret the Easter events in a way that is rather personal for us and how 'I' am reconciled to God, set free, made whole etc. It is a response that often leads to a lot of statements (and songs / hymns) that feature our individual selves. And there is a place for that – but that is not what is going on here. The Christian faith could have remained a in-house affair made up of people from very similar cultural backgrounds to one another. If there was anyone who came from outside the usual group, then, they would have to assimilate into the existing pattern which meant circumcision and observing particular dietary

laws. This concern for what food you ate had nothing to do waistlines! It had to do with holiness codes and how you preserved the purity of your faith.

The report that Peter makes to the church in Jerusalem overturns these expectations. The Gentiles (with all their different customs, other languages) are to be included in the body of Christ – the church – without any of these constraints or hoops to jump. Peter's report effectively justifies Paul's work as 'the apostle to the Gentiles': it is no wonder that in recent times Paul has been described as the apostle of multiculturalism.

On three separate occasions now (1985, 2006 and 2012) the Uniting Church has made statements about cultural diversity and linguistic difference. It has recognized that the Uniting Church has moved beyond the mere coming together of three different denominations - the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregationalist. In some parts of our presbytery the cultural diversity is more obvious than in the church in Baulkham Hills. In some of those other parts of the presbytery (and the synod) a lot of work has needed to be done to fashion the worship and witness of the church so that it reflects the cultural diversity within the church and the neighbourhood.

In its statements the Uniting Church has declared this diversity to be 'a gift of God'; it has regarded this coming together of cultures as a 'foretaste of the kingdom of God' and a 'sign of witness and hope' to the wider Australian society. There is still a lot of work to be done in order to release the full potential of these claims and ensure that, through the Holy Spirit, the hope expressed back in 1985 that this inclusion of many cultures would enrich the life of the church as a whole.

Yours in Christ,

Clive

The Assembly statements are:

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/mcm/resources/assembly-resolutions-and-statements/item/1688-we-are-a-multicultural-church>

<https://ucaassembly.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/198>

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/obmm>



PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Albert Olley

Shirley Rodgers

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

15—21 May

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal

All Group Leaders and Others

Please remember to **ALWAYS** lock and activate the security alarm at the conclusion of your gatherings at the church.

Please also **ALWAYS** turn off all lights, close windows, **turn off air-conditioners and fans.**

And leave the space neat and tidy ready for the next group. *Thank you.*



**Being prepared for
next week's worship:
22 May 2022 Easter 6**

On receiving a 'vision'

**15 May 2022 Sunday:
8am, 9:30am and
6:45pm.**

**Bible Readings:
Acts 16:9-15
John 14:23-29**

It seems as if visions play an important part in the spread of the gospel. They hold out a hope that break with expectations and past habits. They can lead us into fresh territories and experiences that lie beyond our comfort zones. And, unlike our contemporary talk of mission statements and profiles, they come not from but from without, from beyond us. That being the case one can well understand the summons in John's gospel not to be afraid. The promise of the Spirit's coming is made but that does not necessarily do away with any fears and apprehensions we might have with regards to what is expected of us.

Imagine then setting out to serve the gospel in a new land where you do not know what to expect. The significance of this vision for Paul is that Macedonian in his vision is asking him to set foot in what we now know as Europe. Philippi was a Roman colony in the north-east of modern Greece. Today it is a World Heritage Site but then it was a major city that had expanded

through the bestowal of lands on veterans of the Roman army. Not long before they had won an important battle nearby. The first church in Europe comes into being in the home of Lydia. Being a seller of purple means that she is a wealthy woman: it was difficult and an expensive process to colour cloth purple in those times. She herself is from Thyatira which was not far from Troy (back in north-west Turkey, not far from Gallipoli). Lydia is what we might call today an expatriate. The church that meets in her home will later receive Paul's warmest and most intimate letter. That may well be the case, though Paul's first visit to Philippi is not without problems. The narrative then tells of how the owners of a slave girl make a formal complaint against him: he is bringing customs into the city that are unlawful for Roman citizens to observe. Paul and Silas are imprisoned. It seems as if these visions that come from without stretch us and can place us in positions of risk that more well-managed plans may not.

Come along and be part of

Australia's
**Biggest
Morning
Tea**



Friday 27th May from 10am

at the home of Dulcie & Peter Duncum
53 Sarah Crescent, Baulkham Hills



Everyone is welcome, so please feel free to join with us 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!

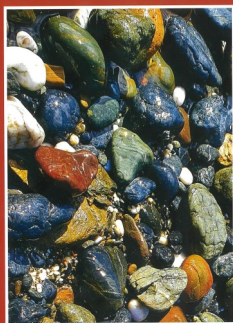
Or donate online to help us reach our fundraising goal! Together, we can help Cancer Council raise much needed funds. Please use this link:

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/DulcieDuncum>

Enquiries : Barry Gregory 9639 4700, Dulcie Duncum 9639 6014

**With Love
to the World**

Pentecost



'With Love to the World'
a daily Bible reading guide
based on the
Revised Common Lectionary
Volume 16, Number 11
Pentecost
16 May 2022—14 August 2022
is available in the foyer.

Please place **\$5**
in offering bag
to cover costs.

Vol. 16, No. 11 16 May - 14 August 2022 ISSN 0729-042X



**Penrith Uniting Church Hub
Young Adult Worker
2.5-3 days per week
Commencing as soon as possible**

Penrith Uniting Church Hub is a development of the Uniting Church congregations and groups within the Penrith LGA in Western Sydney. We minister to people from many cultural and language backgrounds in places with varying levels of disadvantage. We also connect with the Kingswood Campus of Western Sydney University.

We are looking for a person to come and grow the collection of younger adults in the region, through developing connection, discipleship, and leadership. Our hope is that as this group grows and strengthens together, this ministry will extend into the local community, including into the University campus.

We are seeking someone who can hit the ground running in developing this ground-breaking ministry with younger adults, especially from multi-cultural backgrounds. The successful applicant will work with the support of the Team leader and a growing ministry team which is beginning to be put in place. There is also support from PULSE from the Synod. The position is funded for 2 years, and we intend to develop it to continue after that time.

Applicants must hold a valid Working with Children Check Clearance from the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian before applying for this position.

It is preferable that the Applicant will have a good knowledge of the Uniting Church and have completed Ethical Ministry Foundational training and Safe Church Awareness Training (or be prepared to do so).

For all enquiries and applications, please contact Rev Christine Bayliss Kelly for a detailed Position Description or for more information. cbaykel@gmail.com or 0409 925 607.

CLOSING DATE: 30th May 2022

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

Click on the metal bird image / publications.