



### Bible Reading

**8am & 9.30am:**

Acts 16: 9-15, John4: 23-29

**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 Roland Bryant , Clive Pearson

**9.30am—Worship**

Led by Sharon Underwood, Clive Pearson

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



**6.45pm—Worship**

Led by Abbey Sim, Clive Pearson

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

#### MONDAY 23 MAY

**No Scheduled Activities**

#### SATURDAY 28 MAY

**No Scheduled Activities**

#### TUESDAY 24 MAY

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**9.30am—Christian Meditation**

in the church

**7.30pm-9.30pm—Thrive Bible Study** lower hall

#### SUNDAY 29 MAY

**Ascension Sunday  
Easter 7**

#### WEDNESDAY 25 MAY

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**7.30pm—Church Council meeting** in the church

**8am—Worship**

**9.30am—Worship**

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

**5pm—Shine**

**6.45pm—Worship**

#### THURSDAY 26 MAY

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

#### FRIDAY 27 MAY

**10am—Biggest morning tea** at the home of Dulcie and Peter Duncum

**5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group** upstairs hall

**Disney Night**



#### 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

**PRE SCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

**EMAIL:** director@stmatthewsps.net.au

## 'Visions'

Our reading from the book of Acts for this week is a game-changer! It marks the moment when the apostle Paul crossed over from Asia Minor (Turkey) to what we know as Europe. It represents the moment when the gospel is moving further into the Roman Empire and will in due course make its way to Germany, France and Britain. It will take time.

This spreading of the gospel was not a consequence of a five-year plan, a mission statement, the first century equivalent of an NCLS questionnaire - nor indeed a series of meetings. The way the author of the book of Acts describes what happened is due to a 'vision' and the response of individual people. In this instance the key figures are the apostle Paul who responds to an 'unknown' Macedonian (from north-east Greece) and Lydia, a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira (in Turkey).

Lydia is little known in the Uniting Church. We do not have any churches named after her – though we do have churches named after certain key figures in the Methodist tradition in Australia. In the Orthodox and some other traditions she is regarded as a 'saint' – and indeed she is regarded as the 'patron saint of dyers'. There are churches that bear her name.

Lydia was a 'seller of purple'. The colour purple was very difficult to produce in the ancient world. Any garment dyed purple would have been top of the range: it would be expensive. Perhaps that is why the colour purple could signify royalty. Most representations of Lydia have her draped in a purple shawl or veil.

Lydia was presumably well-off. She has her own house/hold. There is no reference to any husband. She may have been a widow. She is described as a 'worshipper of God' which means that she was a Gentile attracted to the God of the Jews. She invites Paul and his companions to come and stay in her home: the Greek word for home is *oikos*. It would have been large enough to cater for a household which was more than immediate family members. This Greek word is the root word which lies behind our words economy, economics, and ecumenical.

For the early church the whole of creation was regarded as 'the household of God'. The first economist was God! Being an economist had to do with how God managed the 'household of creation' with the intention of not balancing the budget – but for the sake of salvation and reconciliation. It meant 'caring for the household' / 'for creation' as well.

Today the colour purple has been a symbol for women's voice and rights. It became the colour of choice for the English suffragettes campaigning for the vote just before World War I. Alice Walker used the colour purple for the title of her book which tells the story of a poor Black African woman badly treated by her husband. The book is framed around a series of 90 letters to 'Dear God'. At one point the main character, Celie, is told by her friend, Shug Avery, how God must get annoyed if we miss the 'colour purple' in the fields of nature. Shug is suggesting that things like this – the things we often do not notice – are signs of how God loves us – 'God is trying to tell us something'.

Lydia is often described as 'the woman of purple'. She plays a crucial role in the 'vision' Paul received.

### This week's musical items:

On his arrival in Philippi, Paul makes his way down to the riverside where he expects to come across a place of prayer. Lydia invites him into her home. (The theme of 'homecoming' is very popular in American churches after the long summer holidays: many will hold 'Homecoming services').

Alison Krauss' version of 'Down to the river to pray'.

[https://  
www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSif77IVQdY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSif77IVQdY)

Also, Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Choir, 'Down by the riverside'.

[https://  
www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJCI22\\_GDjI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJCI22_GDjI)

Josh Ritter, 'Homecoming' from his album, 'Sermon on the Rocks'. (This is a secular song, but see how many biblical allusions you can hear. It featured in the TV series, *Billions*).

[https://  
www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIHMAhle9es](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIHMAhle9es)

From the soundtrack / film of *The Color Purple*, 'Maybe God is trying to tell you something'. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=f7TIQDYHDEc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7TIQDYHDEc)

And another version of the same song from daughters visiting their father in hospital

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=wsrGK-MVd9c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsrGK-MVd9c)

*Yours in Christ,*

*Clive*



## PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Jane Jenkyn  
Trevor Leslie

Christopher Gibb

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

22—28 May

*Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles*

## 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.*

## Save the Date

*Coffee and Discovery 10am Thursday 2 June*

Speaker Clive Pearson

*"Confessions of an Accidental Theologian"*



**Being prepared for  
next week's worship:  
29 May 2022 Easter 6  
Ascension Sunday**

*The risen and  
ascended Christ*

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

**Bible Readings:**

**Acts 1: 1-11**

**Luke 24: 44-53**

Today we are observing the ascension of Christ. Once upon a time you would have got a public holiday - as you still do in some countries. But, generally speaking, Ascension Day (which was last Thursday) passes unnoticed in Australia with barely a mention. That is very strange!

There are a number of building blocks which go into how we understand who Christ is. We might say there is an agenda. It includes how we draw upon the gospels for our understanding of the public ministry of Jesus and the death and resurrection of Jesus. It includes our reflection on what is called the 'two natures' of Christ - his humanity and his divinity. It wrestles with how Jesus' death on the cross 'helps us' and what it means for us to think of him as 'saviour'. The Ascension is a vital part of this agenda: it is like the buckle in the belt. It is not enough for us to settle for the resurrection appearances and leave it at that. That would

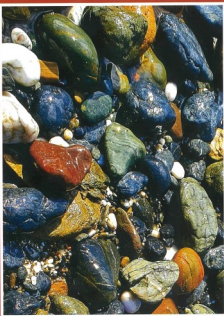
leave Jesus 'stuck' in first century Palestine.

Luke is the New Testament writer who best understands the importance of the Ascension. His gospel ends with Jesus being raised back into the presence of God; his sequel, the book of Acts, begins with a variation on the same incident. Only Luke does that in a gospel which ends in the same place as it began - back in the Temple.

The Ascension is a critical episode in the witness to the risen Christ. It lifts the risen Jesus out of his own time and place. It allows him to be available in and through the Spirit to us in our time and place. It raises Jesus out of the particularity of his own time and allows him to be 'present' to every age, culture and place. In terms of the *Basis of Union* it allows the Uniting Church to lay claim to the 'completed work' of Christ. It allows our lives to be addressed by Christ,



**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. You may  
also pay via Pushpay

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

**The church council has approved the following representatives on the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) to call a new minister for St Matthews.**

*Eulalie Herat – 8.00am*  
*Dean Drayton - 9.30am*  
*Helen Olley -9.30am*  
*Karen Vandenberg- 9.30am*  
*Mike Underwood-9.30am*  
*Alexander Lawless – 6.45pm*

**Presbytery appointed representatives on this committee are**

*Rev Grant Aitkin's (Chairperson)*  
*Carmel Ieraci*

*Please continue this process and the committee members with yours prayers.*

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 bird image / publications.

Come along and be part of




**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



Uniting Mission & Education

## Out of the Box Missional Conference 2022

The mission Enablement team would love to **extend an invitation** to your congregations to attend **Out of the Box Missional Conference 2022 "Equipping disciples for a growing, contemporary, and courageous church"**, coming this

**July 29th-30th.**

Josh Wyatt – as part of UME’s Mission Enablement Team – is making PNP a very generous offer of a discount for pre-booked and group tickets. This is an amazing opportunity for teams of people from PNP congregations to participate in the conference. Attending as a team enables the learning at the conference to translate into action in congregations. Often, there can be great learning at conferences for individuals who come back enthused but are then deflated. Being part of a group keeps the momentum going.

**Additional discounts** are available when 8 or more tickets are purchased in a single transaction.

See more on the UME Website: <https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/out-of-the-box-missional-conference/>

## OUT OF THE BOX

MISSIONAL CONFERENCE

29-30 JULY 2022 - CENTRE FOR MINISTRY NORTH PARRAMATTA

[ume.nswact.uca.org.au](http://ume.nswact.uca.org.au)

Out of the Box Missional Conference will sell out, so we want to offer you Presale Discounted Tickets when they go on sale 10AM, Thursday 19th of May.



REV TIM COSTELLO AO



REV ELLIE ELIA



OUT OF THE BOX  
MISSIONAL CONFERENCE

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Uniting Mission & Education  
[ume.nswact.uca.org.au](http://ume.nswact.uca.org.au)

### Our Speakers...

This year we are thrilled to welcome Rev. Tim Costello AO and Rev. Ellie Elia as our Keynote Speakers. What’s more, be a part of Missional Masterclasses: bespoke electives focussing on a range of subjects such as: intercultural ministry, music, digital, storytelling, pioneering, and more, lead by Rev Dr Grace Ji-sun Kim, Dr Byron Smith, Natasha Holmes, Rev Dr Karina Kreminski and Dr Armen Gakavian, and Josh Wyatt.



DR BYRON SMITH



REV DR GRACE JI-SUN KIM



DR ARMEN GAKAVIAN



REV DR KARINA KREMINSKI



NATASHA HOLMES



JOSHUA WYATT



### 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](mailto:cbaykel@gmail.com) or 0409 925 607.

CLOSING DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022